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# ARAB TIMES



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NO. 7216 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 1988 SHABAN 19, 1408 AH 18 PAGES 150 FILLS

24 women passengers freed : Release of 17 prisoners demanded

## Kuwaiti airliner hijacked to Iran

NICOSIA, April 5, (Agencies): Arab hijackers today seized a Kuwait Airways jumbo whose passengers included three members of Kuwait's royal family and forced it to land in Mashhad, northeast Iran, demanding the release of 17 "political prisoners" held in Kuwait.

They have set a 12-hour deadline for their demands to be met, the Iranian national news agency Irna said.

### Decision

The hijackers have freed 24 women passengers, the Iranian news agency Irna said.

The agency gave no other details about the passengers still held on board the plane.

It said the decision followed the efforts of a delegation headed by Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Ali Reza Moayeri.

Irna reported that the hijackers said in a statement radioed to the control tower at Mashhad airport: "We ask you Iranian officials to mediate between us and the Kuwaiti government if you want."

The release of the 17 jailed in Kuwait for political violence is a frequent demand of militants.

The hijackers' statement stressed: "This is our main demand..."

we are ready to cooperate with them (the Kuwaiti government) and if they accept our demand we will prove our goodwill.

"If you do not want to mediate, we ask for fuel and other needs and then we will take off," Irna reported.

The agency said earlier that the hijackers threatened to blow up the Boeing 747 if Iranian security forces approached it.

It was not clear whether the Iranians agreed to refuel the jetliner.

But Irna and Tehran Radio, said Iranian security forces surrounded the plane on the tarmac at Mashhad to prevent it taking off.

The flight KU 422 originated in Bangkok. The plane, Al Jabriya, was commandeered three hours after it took off from Bangkok on a flight to Kuwait, with 97 passengers and 15 crew members aboard.

### Freed

One traveller, a Jordanian with "a heart condition," was freed several hours after the plane landed at Mashhad at 7:30 am (6:00 GMT), the Islamic Republic news agency reported.

The freed passenger, businessman Mustafa Issa, 42, later appeared on Tehran television, and said there were "six or seven" hijackers, armed with handbombs and pistols.

"They told us: 'Don't worry, we are after redressing our rights denied by the Kuwaiti government.' They tied the passengers' hands and seated them in the rear section of the plane."

Kuwait aviation sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the hijacked plane's pilot is an Iraqi and the other crew members are 12 Arabs, a Thai and a Filipino. The co-pilot is a Syrian.

The plane was supplied with water and a "charger" to keep its air conditioning working following demands by the hijackers, the Iranian agency reported.

### Problem

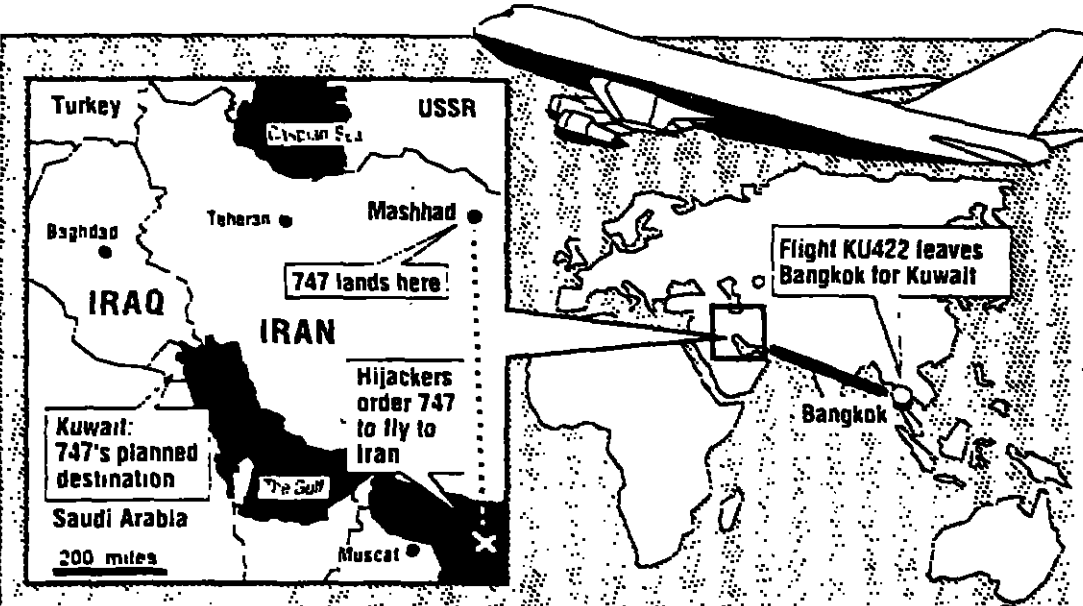
The Kuwait government, its relations with Tehran strained over the 7-1/2-year-old Iran-Iraq war, urged Iran to handle the incident carefully.

Iran's powerful Parliament Speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, said: "Despite Kuwait's insistence we have asked our officials to solve the problem immediately."

Otherwise, he said, the plane must leave Iran.

Iranian Prime Minister Hossein Mousavi said Iran was trying to "resolve the incident peacefully to save the lives of the people on board," Tehran Radio reported.

Moayeri, earlier in the day went to Mashhad to negotiate



with the hijackers and requested that all women aboard the plane be released.

Mousavi told Tehran Radio that hijackings were "against humanitarian and Islamic principles and unacceptable as a political tactic."

Initially, Iran refused to allow the plane to land, but it reversed the decision when the pilot said he was running out of fuel, Irna and Tehran Radio said.

After circling for 44 minutes, the plane touched down in Mash-

had at 7:30 am (0400 GMT) "solely for humanitarian reasons," an unnamed Foreign Ministry spokesman told Irna.

The Kuwait news agency quoted a spokesman for the airline as saying contact was lost with the aircraft while it flew over Muscat, Oman, in the southern Gulf.

Mashhad is a city of 1.5 million people close to Iran's borders with the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

## Hezbollah men held in Bangkok

By Lima Al Khalafawi

ARAB TIMES has learnt that four of the collaborators of the hijackers were arrested in Bangkok and have been identified as members of the Hezbollah. They are being questioned.

Aviation sources in Kuwait said Kuwait Airways flights on the Kuwait-Bangkok route, unlike many of the airline's other flights, did not carry armed security guards as security at Bangkok airport was considered adequate.

In December 1984, four men seeking the release of the 17 Arabs hijacked a Kuwaiti airliner to Tehran and shot dead two American passengers before Iranian security guards stormed the plane and seized them. Their fate has not been revealed.

## US, UK condemn hijacking

UNITED NATIONS, April 5, (Agencies): UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he was appalled by the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner today and appealed for the immediate release of the passengers.

The United States and Britain condemned the hijacking.

"For compelling human reasons, the secretary-general appeals to the hijackers to release immediately the passengers on board," said his spokesman Francois Giuliani, reading from a statement.

The United Nations has consistently condemned hijacking and taking of hostages as illegal and unjustifiable, the statement from the secretary-general said.

The British government today condemned the hijacking.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London said that "this is a totally unacceptable act of terrorism."

He recalled that Britain has in the past condemned such acts against civilian aircraft.

The spokesman pointed out "we are extremely worried about the incident."

"We condemn this hijacking as we do all such acts of terrorism," Deputy State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley told reporters. "We urge the government of Iran to live up to its responsibilities to resolve the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice."

Emergency cabinet meeting held

## Delegation will be sent to help free plane

KUWAIT will send a delegation to Iran to help Iranian authorities free 111 people on a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner in the city of Mashhad.

The cabinet approved the measure during an emergency cabinet session last night.

Rashed Al Rashed, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, said Iran had asked for a Kuwaiti delegation. He did not say where or when the group would go.

The extraordinary cabinet meeting was held at the Shaab Palace under the chairmanship of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah to discuss the developments on the hijack.

Briefed

Rashed said after the meeting that the cabinet was briefed on all contacts that took place between the Iranian authorities and the hijackers to ensure release of the plane and its passengers.

The Kuwaiti cabinet expressed

satisfaction with statements by Iranian officials which showed their concern for the passengers' safety, Rashed said.

Earlier, Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said Iran was trying to end the matter peacefully and rejected hijacking.

Rashed said Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati sent a letter to Deputy Premier Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, expressing similar views.

"To reinforce the efforts made by officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in response to a request by Iranian authorities, the cabinet has decided to send a delegation from Kuwait to facilitate the mission of the Iranian authorities to free the hijacked passengers," Rashed said.

The cabinet hoped the Iranian efforts will be successful in ensuring the release of the plane and its passengers.

## Kuwait asks Tehran to keep the plane grounded

KUWAIT yesterday asked Iran to prevent a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner from taking off from the Iranian city of Mashhad.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry asked Iranian authorities to prevent the plane taking off from Mashhad, a city of 1.5 million in the north-eastern corner of Iran close to the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

Opposes

The Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires in Kuwait and urged his government to settle the matter quickly and carefully.

"Kuwait is confident that the relevant authorities in Iran will deal with this matter wisely and in such a way as to preserve the safety of the passengers, crew and plane," a ministry official said.

"It hopes that Iranian authorities will be able to end this unfortunate incident as quickly as possible," the official added.

Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said the Iranian government was trying to solve the hijack problem peacefully.

Tehran radio quoted him as saying: "The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran opposes any move which might endanger the lives of innocent people."

"These moves are not correct from an ideological and humanitarian point of view. Neither are they politically correct."

"In view of the request made by the Kuwaiti government, at present the responsible officials are trying to solve the problem in a peaceful manner and to save the lives of the passengers."

## Three Sabah family members on board

BANGKOK, April 5, (AP): Three members of Kuwait's ruling Al Sabah family were among 112 passengers and crew members aboard a Kuwait Airways jetliner hijacked to Iran, an airline official said today.

Elias H. Shiber, country manager for Kuwait Airways, said the Boeing 747 departed Bangkok international airport at 3:30 am Tuesday (2030 GMT) and was hijacked one hour and 50 minutes before its scheduled landing in Kuwait.

Shiber released a list of 97 passengers aboard the aircraft. Earlier reports had said the plane carried 96 passengers and a crew of 15.

Passports

The passenger list included 30 Kuwaitis, 20 Britons, eight Thai, four people each from Pakistan, Egypt, Ireland and Bahrain, three each from Jordan, Austria and Syria, two each from Germany, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, and one each from Korea, Japan, Singapore, Palestinian, Colombian and Lebanon.

One other passenger held both US and Egyptian passports while another's nationality was not known, Shiber said.

The crew members included four Egyptians, three each from Kuwait and Jordan, and one each from Yemen, Sudan, Iraq, the Philippines and Thailand.

The airline could not immediately say if the two passengers with German passports were from East or West Germany, or if the crew member was from North or South Yemen.

Shiber said the first class passenger list included three members of Al Sabah family: Ibtisam Khaled Al Sabah, Fadil Khaled Al Sabah and the wife of Khaled Anwar Al Sabah.

Britain said today that 20 of its nationals were aboard the hijacked plane.

In London, the Foreign Office said earlier that 22 Britons were among the passengers.

A review of the passenger list showed two of those believed to be British were Irish nationals, a spokesman said.

The passenger list issued by Kuwait Airlines in Bangkok listed 22 Britons. But the Foreign Office said two of the passengers identified as British by the airline, Giza Bela Kurucz and Erzsabet Katalin Kurucz, were not on its list from the British embassy in Kuwait.

The Foreign Office, saying officials were "extremely worried," added it knew of no special reason why such a high proportion of the passengers were British.

The airline's London office said it believed that some of the Britons on board the Bangkok-Kuwait flight had been due to change planes in Kuwait and catch a connecting flight to London later.

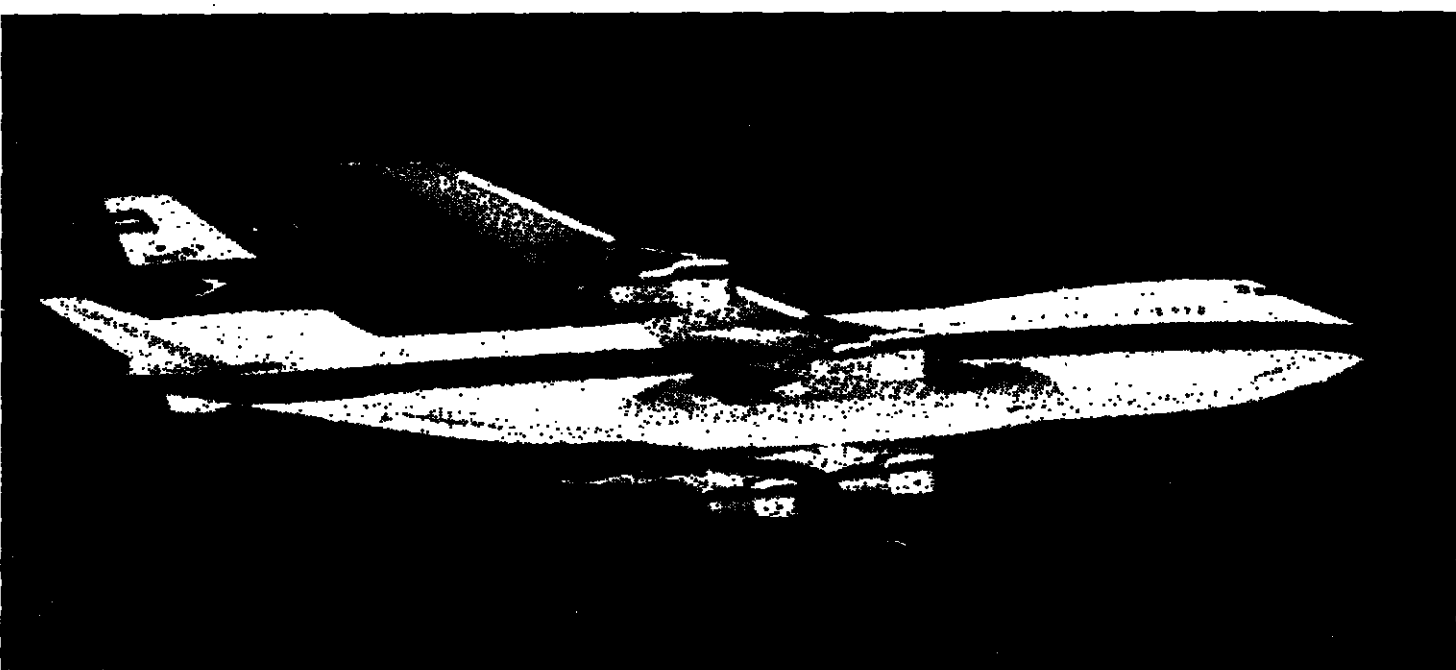
"Normally they would have been back in the United Kingdom by this afternoon," Terry Lee, Kuwait Airways sales manager in Britain told reporters.

Britain closed its embassy in Iran in 1980 after the US embassy there was seized. Britain withdrew its remaining diplomats, who were in the Swedish mission, last May after a diplomat was beaten up following the arrest in Britain of an Iranian envoy on shoplifting charges.

### Hotel fire

BLACKPOOL, April 5, (AP): Five people, including three children, died today when fire swept through a hotel believed to have been used by the government to house unemployed people and their families, police and fire officials said.

Seventeen others were injured in the mid-afternoon blaze at the Leber Mount Hotel in its popular North England seaside resort and convention site, said Lancashire Constabulary, the regional police force.



A file photo of the hijacked jumbo. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Iranian missile hits Baghdad

BAGHDAD, April 5, (Agencies): An Iranian missile hit Baghdad today hours after Bulgarian Prime Minister Georgi Atanasov began an official visit to the Iraqi capital, a military spokesman said.

He said the missile landed on a residential area killing or wounding an unspecified number of people and damaging property.

Baghdad television said Atanasov had talks with President Saddam Hussein today and delivered a message from Bulgarian head of state Todor Zhivkov dealing with bilateral relations.

### Ancient

The Iranian missile hit Baghdad after five Iraqi missiles were fired at Iranian cities, two at Tehran, two at the holy city of Qom and one at the ancient capital of Isfahan, Iran said three people were killed in Qom.

Iraq fired a missile at Isfahan yesterday hours after an Iranian missile raid on the Iraqi oil city of Kirkuk, where an Iraqi spokesman said several people were killed or wounded.

It said the attacks were in reprisal for raids on Iranian cities in

which 21 people were killed. The tit-for-tat attacks marked the full resumption of the "war of the cities" after a three-day halt last weekend.

An Iraqi military spokesman said that apart from the missiles fired at Tehran, Baghdad also fired two missiles at the holy city of Qom and one at the historical city of Isfahan in central Iran.

He said Iraqi jets also raided the western Iranian town of Hamadan and the southwestern town of Dezful. Tehran Radio said the raid on Hamadan hit residential areas.

The radio said Iranian anti-aircraft gunners shot down an Iraqi PC-7 jet over Sulaymaniyah province, where Iranian forces seized a swathe of territory in an offensive last month.

Iraq yesterday accused Iran of using chemical weapons saying 88 of its soldiers were in a Baghdad hospital suffering from the effects of Iranian chemical weapons.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz asked UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to send a mission to visit the soldiers.

## Relatives anxious for information

By Jadranka Porter

IN Kuwait the anxious relatives and friends of the hostages were listening to the radio, contacting newspapers and their embassies for information.

A spokesman for the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd in Kuwait said the company received a call from the family of Masato Otsuzuku, 41, who is on the hijacked flight.

"We have no information, we just don't know what to tell them," he said. Otsuzuku, who has already spent three months in Kuwait, went to Japan to complete the formalities related to his residence and was on his way back to Kuwait.

### Fateful

He was to take the position of assistant site manager at the Al Zoor south power station boiler project and was planning to spend more than a year in Kuwait.

The 14-year-old daughter of Ahmed and Fawzia Nisar Memon from Pakistan who are on the fateful flight, was shocked at the news about the hijacking. She said she was listening with her sister to the news bulletins on the radio hoping to learn about

her parents' destiny.

The Pakistani embassy and the Khorafti Machines Company where Nisar works were also in contact with the authorities and Nisar's children.

The Nisars were part of a group of seven, four Pakistanis and three Austrians, who left together for Bangkok a week ago on a business cum pleasure trip.

A spokesman for the Austrian embassy confirmed that three Austrian nationals with residence in Kuwait were on the flight KU 422. They are Josef and Sonja Degeorgi and Heinz Orthner.

"We just hope that the incident ends up without a bloodshed," the spokesman said.

### Awaiting

The Thai Ambassador to Kuwait, Vichien Chatsuwann, was last night awaiting a report from Bangkok.

There are eight Thai nationals on the hijacked flight but the diplomat said he did not know them and suggested they might be workers on one of the construction projects in Kuwait.

The Syrian embassy had no information on the three of their nationals, among them one woman, who are also among the hostages.

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- چار پاکستانی بھی مسافروں میں شامل ہیں
- لہرو پر ایرانی توپوں کی گولہ باری
- قذافیوں اور یسودیوں میں شدید جھڑپ
- دبئی انٹیر کے خلاف پاکستان نے اپنی پوزیشن مستحکم کر لی
- ادبیات ○ یوسفیات

### WEATHER

PARTLY cloudy weather continues with light variable to northeasterly wind.  
State of sea: slight  
High water: 2.00 am, 1.00 pm  
Low water: 9.00 am, 9.00 pm  
Sunrise: 5.32 am  
Sunset: 6.10 pm  
Maximum temperature recorded:  
Kuwait: 27°C 81°F  
Ahmad: 24°C 75°F  
Faiha: 25°C 77°F  
Minimum temperature recorded:  
Kuwait: 16°C 61°F  
Ahmad: 19°C 66°F  
Faiha: 20°C 68°F  
Maximum humidity expected:  
Kuwait: 42 per cent  
Ahmad: 65 per cent  
Faiha: 65 per cent  
Minimum temperature expected:  
Kuwait: 27°C 81°F  
Ahmad: 24°C 75°F  
Faiha: 25°C 77°F  
Maximum humidity recorded:  
Kuwait: 39 per cent  
Ahmad: 60 per cent  
Faiha: 62 per cent



## INTERNATIONAL

## Bases talks open in Manila

## US warns of Soviet threat

MANILA, April 5, (Reuters): Talks on the future of American bases in the Philippines opened today with US warnings that the Soviet Union could turn overnight into a powerful military threat to Asian nations.

"It only requires an overnight shift in Soviet intentions; given their capability, to transform (their Pacific) presence into a serious economic and military threat," US Ambassador Nicholas Platt said.

The US and Philippine panels met amid a flurry of accusations over Central Intelligence Agency involvement in the weekend escape of renegade Colonel Gregorio Honasan, the country's most wanted Army rebel.

The American Embassy called the accusations baseless and Platt, opening the talks, reiterated support for President Corason Aquino.

## Terms

But Philippine congressional leaders said they would investigate what Deputy Speaker Antonio Cuenco called an American "arm-twisting tactic" linked to the base negotiations.

The formal agenda for the talks, which could last months,

deals with the terms for the last two years of an agreement allowing Americans use of Clark Air Force base and Subic Naval bases.

Casting a giant shadow is the question of whether the Philippines will permit the bases to remain when the accord runs out in 1991.

Platt, the chief US negotiator, pushed for the retention of the bases, bluntly telling Manila's negotiators that Filipinos need them for their own security and for the money they bring into the country.

He said how both sides handled the issue would have "considerable impact on the future of both our countries."

Platt called the US-Philippine military alliance "a lynch-pin of regional peace."

Manglapus, who has said the bases are for Washington's benefit, not Manila's, said he hoped the talks would end in "ultimate understanding" between the two countries.

Manila newspapers today exhorted officials to push a strong national interest line and leftist groups called for a major demonstration in newspaper

advertisements headlined "our sovereignty is not for sale."

President Reagan has said the two bases are increasingly important to regional security and their continued presence has been backed, generally privately, by other independent countries in South-East Asia and by Japan.

The Philippines took a self-confident tack despite the political embarrassment of Honasan's Saturday night escape from the prison ship where he was awaiting court martial over the bloody coup attempt he led last August.

Foreign secretary Raul Manglapus, who heads the Philippine negotiating team, has promised to hold out for more compensation and Philippine control over the two bases, which he has said benefit Washington more than Manila.

## Danger

President Corason Aquino's aides dismissed the charismatic Honasan as a "rebel without a cause" but share prices slid on Monday reflecting investors' nervousness as the military acknowledged it has few clues to help its countrywide search.

Justice Secretary Sedfery

Ordenez called Honasan, who claims a large following amongst junior officers, "a clear and present danger to our government."

Opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile challenged Aquino to call a snap election. In a radio interview today the former Defence Minister denied aiding Honasan, a close friend who once headed Enrile's personal security.

The government has banned radio stations from playing taped, telephoned interviews with the coup leader, fearing repetition of a propaganda campaign he waged during months on the run last year.

The Daily Globe newspaper, which is linked to the opposition, today ran what it said was an interview with Honasan in which he denied bribing his guards to help him escape. The 14 members of the elite Navy special warfare unit who disappeared with him helped him escape out of conviction, not for money, he said.

Manglapus says the annual \$180 million pledge from Washington for the bases covering the five-year period to the end of 1989 is not enough.



● The family of Martin Luther King Jr., stands silent in a moment of prayer next to the crypt where King is buried, during a wreath-laying ceremony in Atlanta. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Labour unions demand wage increase

## Strike paralyses Lebanon

BEIRUT, April 5, (AP): Lebanon was paralysed today as Muslims and Christians united in a nation-wide strike called by labour unions demanding a 300 percent wage increase.

Banks, schools, shops, restaurants, petrol stations, government offices and other businesses were closed in Beirut's Christian and Muslim sectors and other major cities.

The General Confederation of Labor Unions, which sponsored the one-day strike, said Beirut airport, the nation's only civil aviation gateway, as well as hospitals, pharmacies, bakeries, and the media were exempt.

## Compromise

The 300,000-strong GCLU described the one-day protest as a "warning strike." It set April 15 as a deadline for an indefinite work stoppage, if its demand for a 300 percent salary increase was not met.

Parliament on Friday authorised acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss, who also holds the labour

and social affairs portfolio, and Finance Minister Joseph Haschem to deal with the unions' demand for salary increases in the private and public sectors.

A government source said Hoss and Haschem are considering a 100 percent "compromise" wage increase.

The government cannot give the GCLU a 300 percent increase in salaries. Both businessmen and the state treasury cannot cope with such an increase, the source said.

"Both government leaders and businessmen fear that such a high raise as the one demanded by the GCLU would sharply increase the inflation rate," the source added.

Lebanon's 13-year-old civil war has pushed the nation's inflation rate from 9 percent in 1975 to the current estimated level of 225 percent.

The government source said: "Any increase in salaries would force the Lebanese pound to decline further against foreign currencies, something that will

also raise prices and create additional difficulties for the working class."

The Lebanese pound, once the soundest currency in the Middle East, rated 2.5 to the US dollar before the civil war. It sank to a record low of 700 to the dollar last December.

The decline of the Lebanese pound against foreign currencies has sent prices skyrocketing in a nation that imports more than 85 percent of its needs.

The pound regained some of its value in the first quarter of 1988, rating 360 to the dollar in the Beirut money market last week.

Some people opposed the strike. "The federation called the strike and here we are, striking against ourselves," said a taxi driver.

The manager of a local trading company said he thought the strike was a futile exercise.

"The real problem is the war, which is the real reason for the economic problems," he said.

## Libya pulls out troops from its border with Tunisia

ROME, April 5, (AP): Libyan leader Col. Moammar Khaddafi said he has ordered the dismantling of a military unit formed to act inside Tunisia if the United States used that country to attack Libya, the official Libyan news agency Jana said.

Jana, monitored in Rome, said Khaddafi also told the visiting Tunisian Prime Minister and his cabinet that he ordered a division of troops withdrawn from the border with Tunisia.

Libya sent the troops to the border because, he claimed, before the new Tunisian government took power Nov 7, the United States intended to use Tunisia to attack Libya, Jana said.

Tunisian Prime Minister Hadi Baccouche and his country's council of ministers came to Libya to attend a discussion of unity with members of Libya's cabinet.

Khaddafi said he also will insist on "opening the artificial borders with Egypt" and withdrawing military forces from there as part of his desire for a unified Arab nation.

"To bolster confidence, fraternity, security and safety among the brothers in Libya and Tunisia, I announce the dismantling of the 'Badr' formation, which was to act inside Tunisian Arab territories if America used it against Libya," Jana quoted Khaddafi as telling the meeting.

## Gift

"We also announce the presenting of the weapons of this formation as a gift to the Tunisian Arab armed forces," Khaddafi added.

"Those who made Nov 7 were among those who prevented America from using Tunisian Arab territories against Libya,"

said Khaddafi. He was referring to the removal of Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, who had made his country one of the most Westernised nations in the Arab world.

Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the Prime Minister and an Army general, claimed the 84-year-old Bourguiba was incapacitated by age and health and took power under a constitutional provision that allows such an act if the President dies or is declared incapacitated.

Khaddafi also told the meeting he had announced the abolition of the border gate with Tunisia. Starting today, said Khaddafi, "Arabs in both Libya and Tunisia can enter and go out without this gate standing in their way."

The Libyan leader expressed regret that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak "had rejected the opening of the borders."

## Punjab neighbours seal their borders

NEW DELHI, April 5, (AP): Two Indian states neighbouring the state of Punjab took fresh security measures today against Sikh terrorism, banning night traffic and sealing their borders.

Meanwhile, five people were gunned down by militants in Punjab, reports said.

The government of Kashmir banned vehicle traffic after sundown in its border areas to prevent infiltration by Sikh militants operating from Punjab, the United News of India news agency reported.

The Himachal Pradesh government sealed its borders with Punjab and beefed up police patrols in the sensitive areas, UNI said. The measures were designed to block the terrorists' escape routes, UNI reported.

Police reports said six Sikhs have been gunned down in Punjab in the past 24 hours; they included a Sikh temple official, identified as Makhan Singh, in Dharawal village in Gurdaspur district, and five others in different areas.

The latest murders raised Punjab's death toll to at least 661 in attacks blamed on Sikh extremists so far this year.

More than 1,000 people were killed last year by Sikh militants fighting for a separate theocratic homeland in Punjab.

Amritsar police arrested nine Sikh extremists of the outlawed Khalistan Liberation Force and the Khalistan Commando Force, two underground terrorist organisations.

Meanwhile, a meeting was held in Punjab today by various factions of the militant groups to discuss the idea of unity, UNI reported. The meeting was held at Damdami Taksal, headquarters of a fundamentalist Sikh religious school.

## Tamils kill 4 soldiers in ambush

COLOMBO, April 5, (Reuters): Tamil rebels killed four Sri Lankan soldiers in an ambush today and injured two others, military officials said.

Officials said the six soldiers were on their way by car to distribute bread to a camp when guerrillas shot them at Kondachchi in Mannar district, 200 km north of Colombo.

The weapons of the dead were missing after the incident, they said.

The ambushers were from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which is fighting for an independent state for minority Tamils, the military said.

The Tigers were suspected of having killed eight members of a rival Tamil group on Sunday at Vavuniya, military officials said. No other details were available.

Police said a van carrying newspapers was burned today by armed men suspected to be from the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, a banned leftist group drawn from the majority Sinhalese community.

## US proposes \$2b of arms for Israel

WASHINGTON, April 5, (Reuters): The Reagan administration has told Congress it intends to sell Israel 75 advanced F-16 C/D fighter planes for \$2 billion as a way to help bolster Israeli security.

The new Defence Department proposal, if approved by Congress as expected, is part of a November 1987 US-Israeli security agreement calling for fresh American military aid, which runs in excess of \$1.8 billion annually.

## Opposition

The jets are to be made by General Dynamics Corp., the primary F-16 contractor, with Israeli co-production, although details of the production plan were not disclosed.

The new F-16s are to take the place of the Lavi, a fighter Israel had started to build but dropped last year because of excessive costs, the officials said. It was already soaking up a major portion of US military aid to Israel.

There was opposition to the Lavi plan both in the United States and in Israel, as well as opposition from American plane manufacturers who feared the Lavi would be bought by third countries in place of US-built planes.

The Pentagon also informed Congress on Monday of other major arms sales to the Middle East.

They included sales to Egypt of 7,511 anti-tank missiles, with 108 launchers, for \$180 million and two Blackhawk helicopters for \$32 million.

The Pentagon also told Congress it planned to sell to the United Arab Emirates modification kits for five Hawk air defence missile batteries for \$168 million.

It said it plans to sell planes and missiles to Pakistan worth \$343 million, which includes 11 F-16 fighters for \$256 million and 200 Sparrow and 360 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles for a total of \$87 million.

## Carbide ordered to pay \$192m

JABALPUR, April 5, (AP): A judge ordered Union Carbide Corp. to pay \$192 million in interim relief for victims of the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster, saying he had considered "the needs of the victims."

The US-based multinational said it would study the decision before deciding whether to file an appeal.

The ruling came on Carbide's appeal of a lower court's decision ordering an interim relief payment of \$270 million. Carbide had argued that a grant of interim relief could prejudice the outcome of the Indian government's \$3-billion suit against the company.

The ruling by the Madhya Pradesh court lessened the interim award by \$78 million and ordered Carbide to deposit the sum within two months.

High court judge S.K. Seth said he made the reduction after considering "the needs of the victims."

At Union Carbide's headquarters in the United States, company spokesman Robert Berzok said the company would review the ruling before deciding whether to appeal to India's Supreme Court.

"The ruling of the judge... will not serve the real needs of the Bhopal victims," Berzok said. "The high court judge is holding Union Carbide liable, and this can only result in additional litigation while the genuine victims remain in the wings."

## France strikes hostage deal

DAMASCUS, April 5, (AP): A deal has been struck between France and Iran to resume diplomatic relations and release three Frenchmen held by Iranian group in Lebanon; released, knowledgeable said here today.

If there are no last-minute snags, the release could be the next few days," one said.

The two sources declined to identify but have proved to be reliable in the past. They said a special French negotiator would arrive in Lebanon two days after the release of the three Frenchmen held in Lebanon's Bekaa valley.

They said the envoy, French Interior Minister Pasqua, and an unidentified Lebanese businessman, to Damascus yesterday to a checkpoint on the Syrian border controlled by Syrian Army.

The sources said not involved in previous negotiations which led to the release of Nov 27 last year of two hostages.

The three French held in Lebanon are Jean Kaufman, 42, a journalist; Marcel Carlier, 63, and Fontaine, 46, seized May 1985.

Their kidnapping was by Islamic Jihad, a group of Muslims of the Shiite sect. Iran's leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

The French Foreign Ministry declined to comment on the deal. France and Iran had reached an accord to resume diplomatic relations in exchange for the simultaneous release of the three hostages.

## Soviets in favour of embargo on Iran

ABU DHABI, April 5, (AP): Soviet officials said Moscow was not against an arms embargo on Iran but did not believe Tehran would end the Gulf oil embargo.

"We are not against an embargo," Georgy Tarasov, vice-president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, said last night.

"But we believe it will not be the war because Iran will not get weapons from the market and even the oil embargo will not be lifted."

## Talks

Tarasov, the highest Soviet official to visit UAE since ties with Moscow were established in 1985, said he had talks with senior government officials on the war.

He said Moscow was part in UN consultations on possible embargo, adding that he would work out something we do not want our ties with Iran to be harmed."

The United States has pressing for an arms embargo on Iran to accept last United Nations' ceasefire but Western diplomats in Gulf have said Moscow has been blocking the move.

Tarasov left after arriving Muscat from Abu Dhabi, flying to Kuwait after a three-day visit to Oman.

## Two die in clash with Israelis

BEIRUT, April 5, (UPI): Israeli patrol today clashed with Palestinian commandos at a checkpoint on the border between Lebanon and Israel, the Israeli army said.

An Israeli military spokesman said two commandos were killed and four Israeli soldiers wounded when the commandos attacked it at today.

The spokesman said the commandos had planned to infiltrate Lebanon by an Israeli patrol, about 10 yards from the border fence near the town of Kfar Yuval.

The Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), a faction of the PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, claimed responsibility for the attack and said three commandos were wounded, one of them seriously, and three Israeli soldiers were killed in a firefight that lasted two hours.

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## EDITORIALS

## ARAB TIMES

## Thought for today

It takes all sorts of people to make a world — Douglas Jerrold, English playwright-humourist (1803-1857).

## OPINION

## Israel living in true fear

YASSER Arafat has been the true symbol of the Palestinian cause for the past 20 years. With his characteristic scarf, he has become Palestine itself.

Many Palestinians have appeared and disappeared because they exploited the Palestinian cause for their own personal gain.

No one has any doubt about Arafat's patriotism. He can count on this and thereby embarrass Israel by demanding direct negotiations, sitting with its leaders under the supervision of a neutral party.

Since no one has any doubt about Arafat's true nationalistic feelings the negotiations can be direct. After all, Israel has been telling the world that it would give the Arabs anything they want as long as there are direct negotiations.

There is no difference if Arafat speaks through Russia and Israel speaks through the US since they will sit at the same table exchanging smiles and laughs.

Nothing will destroy Israel more than peace. This is well understood by the Israeli leaders, especially the older ones who think that by insisting on direct negotiations they will avoid peace or delay the process.

During the Israeli Prime Minister's visit to some of the areas of the West Bank on Saturday, Shamir arrogantly stated that Arabs will gain nothing from Israel through violence and that if they want something they would have to sit at the negotiation table — the same table that Israel has rejected for 40 years. It has refused negotiations while all the time speaking of peace to the world, trying to show the world that it is a peace-loving country.

What would happen if the Palestinian leader publicly tells Shamir to sit at the negotiation table while the uprising continues?

In his recent international televised interview, Arafat said he recognises the international legality of Israel, which means that he acknowledges the world recognition of Israel. Although these are not the true feelings of Arafat, they reflect the attitude of the world in which he is living.

We should always remember that by restricting Israel within certain borders we have the beginning of the end of Israel; in spite of the arrogance of Shamir and Sharon.

The nature of the State of Israel is such that it cannot survive in this region. All signs indicate that Israel will vanish one day — it could happen tomorrow, it could happen after a hundred years.

Yasser Arafat will greatly embarrass Israel if he declares that he is ready for direct negotiations. This declaration would signal the beginning of the end for this artificial state.

It is important that the uprising continue because Israel is today living in true fear.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

## A new Gulf war flash-point

By John Owen-Davies

HABUR, Turkey. (Reuters): Flanked by majestic snow-capped peaks and fertile lowlands fed by the Tigris River, this remote frontier crossing between Turkey and Iraq appears a picture of calm and serenity.

It is not. Five craters gouged by Iranian bombs in a Turkish field 800 metres (yards) from two concrete bridges spanning the Hezil River show it is yet another flash-point in the Iran-Iraq war.

The bombs were dumped by a jet that flew into a hail of flak from camouflaged Iraqi anti-aircraft guns on the opposite bank. Turkey has threatened similar action if any other Iranian jet violates its airspace.

Iraq aimed to destroy the bridges, main transit point for trade between Turkey and Iraq, worth \$2.1 billion last year, and for European traffic bound for Baghdad.

"We were lucky," said the driver of one oil tanker lorry who had been waiting to enter Iraq when the jet struck on March 24. "A few hundred metres closer and we would all have been dead."

**Trucks**  
Up to 5,000 trucks cross the border each day on the single direction bridges. About 300 are lined up on either side at any one time waiting to pass customs.

To the left are the peaks of northern Iraq and the fast-flowing Hezil River marking the border, over which the Iranian pilot started his daring low-level bombing run.

On the other side the Tigris plain stretches into Syria, about 40 km (25 miles) away. Tall observation posts manned by para-military gendarmerie troops line the muddy Turkish bank of the Hezil which flows into the Tigris.

One such post and a nearby Kurdish mud and brick village came within a split second of destruction in the Iranian raid.

There is little sign of activity on the Iraqi side, apart from the bustling Al Halil border post. Ominous grass mounds, some with sandbagged emplacements, line sections of the river.

The shanty town of Habur, thriving on the traffic spawned by the 7-1/2-year Gulf war, is about 240 km (140 miles) west of the nearest point on the Iranian border and 1,120 km (700 miles) from Ankara, Turkey's capital.

## Export

Garages, tyre-repair shops, fast food restaurants and basic hotels line the route through the town, two km (1.2 miles) north of the crossing point.

Most vehicles from Iraq are laden with oil, destined for export outlets on Turkey's Mediterranean coast, from the Iraqi oil centre of Kirkuk, 320 km (200 miles) southeast of Habur.

Iraq, whose main Gulf outlets were blocked early in the war, exports up to 1.5 million barrels of oil per day (bpd) through two pipelines to Iskenderun bay and about 70,000 bpd by road.

Pro-Iranian Kurdish guerrillas in Iraq have attacked convoys, some of them taking basic goods from Europe to Baghdad.

The 580-km (360-mile) road from Habur to Iskenderun, hugging Turkey's border with Syria for much of the way, is a driver's nightmare with dense and lumbering traffic.

It is similar to the road through Jordan from Aqaba port, Iraq's other main transit point for goods.

## Ambush

The favoured spot for drivers is a modern restaurant and motel, complete with mosque and sauna, at Nusaybin.

Here they swap stories and warn colleagues coming from other directions about particular hazards of the day — from speed traps to the possibilities of guerrilla ambush.

## Millions of dollars raised to support uprising

By Warren Richey

BAHRAIN: Palestinians and other Arabs in the Gulf region have raised millions of dollars in humanitarian aid to ensure that the ongoing uprising in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank is not snuffed out.

The fund-raising efforts — including donations by Gulf leaders, dinners, poetry readings, rallies, and neighbourhood collection boxes — have given new momentum to Palestine Liberation Organisation offices in the region. And they have helped revive hope of a Palestinian homeland among the hundreds of thousands of expatriate Palestinians living and working in the Gulf.

The PLO, which maintains diplomatic missions in each of the Gulf states, has responded to the public outrage over Israeli actions by establishing special funds to support the uprising. Officials stress that rather than

bullets and bombs, all aid for the uprising is earmarked to help families cope with the continuing Israeli occupation.

"By medicine and food, not by arms," says Rafiq Al Natsha, director of the PLO office in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. "We are looking for peace. We are seeking the minimum rights of our people," he adds. "But until now we have only received an answer from the Israeli Army by their machine guns, tanks, gas bombs, and helicopters."

## Massacre

"This is not just a slaughter against Palestinian civilians," he says "but it is a big massacre against peace."

Overall there are an estimated 576,000 Palestinians living in the Gulf region. Kuwait has the largest population of Palestinians

with roughly 350,000. Saudi Arabia has 170,000 and there are about 35,000 Palestinians in the United Arab Emirates.

In addition to appeals for donations, PLO officials are asking Palestinians and other Arabs to "adopt" a family in the occupied territories to help create a basic support network for the most needy of the 1.5 million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

Many of those families already rely on remittances sent home by relatives working temporarily in the Gulf. But PLO and other Arab officials are concerned that Israel is making it increasingly difficult for such financial assistance to enter the troubled areas and reach the Palestinian families that need it.

And just how the money raised in the Gulf will enter the

territories isn't clear.

"We think the Israelis are deliberately following a policy of forcing Palestinians out," says Lakhdar Ibrahim, assistant secretary-general of the Tunisian Arab League. "It is really remarkable that all these numbers have stayed in their country."

"What is happening now in the territories is giving a new lease on life and a new fresh start for the struggle of the Palestinian people," he says.

## Donations

Ibrahim, on a tour of Gulf states to assess grassroots and other efforts to aid the Palestinians, says current donations have surged, triggered primarily by graphic television news coverage of Israeli acts of brutality against stone-throwing Palestinian

youths.

In Kuwait, about \$9 million has been raised from private sources during the past two months, according to Saleem Zannoun, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council. He adds that \$2 million each has been raised in both Qatar and Bahrain.

Other PLO officials in the region say that \$3.7 million has been raised in Saudi Arabia, and more than \$1 million has been collected from private sources in the United Arab Emirates.

While such grassroots contributions have been significant, PLO chairman Yasser Arafat has complained that contributions by Arab governments in support of the uprising have been less than expected. The complaints were aimed at states that have balked at making contribu-

tions above their regular payments to the PLO called for under the 1978 Baghdad summit agreement.

The issue is a sensitive one; as the 1978 agreement is set to expire this year. In addition, unlike previous fund-raising efforts by the PLO, the current call for aid comes at a time of depressed oil prices. Most Gulf states are considering borrowing to cover this year's expected budget deficits.

In the meantime, both Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and UAE President Sheikh Zayed are said to have made significant personal donations. And Kuwait and Iraq are reported to have made multi-million dollar contributions through the United Nations.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

## Hope of Palestinian homeland revived

## Question remains whether Washington will stand by its friends

## Tests of US fidelity

By John Hughes

WASHINGTON: The United States is heading into a couple of important tests of its fidelity.

The question is whether Washington will stand by its friends in Afghanistan and Nicaragua — both groups battling Marxist regimes — or whether political considerations will cause their abandonment.

In the past, circumstances have conspired against some freedom-inspired fighters who threw in their lot with the US, but who were jettisoned in time of crisis.

After the ill-conceived Bay of Pigs venture, Cubans who had fancifully sought to free Cuba from Fidel Castro were left to fend for themselves on a beachhead overrun by Dr Castro's superior forces. And in Vietnam, when an exhausted America withdrew, thousands of Vietnamese who had enlisted in the fight against the communist North were left to the far-from-tender hands of the Marxist victors. Boatloads of Vietnamese refugees still flee from Hanoi's rule over their country.

Now it is the turn of the Afghans, who have resisted occupation of their country by the Soviet Army, and of the Nicaraguans who have taken up arms to break the grip on their country of the Marxist-enslaved Sandinistas.

In Afghanistan, the beleaguered Soviets are about at the end of their military tether, having been held to a standoff by the anti-communist guerrillas. A few hitches are stalling their promised military withdrawal. One is President Reagan's insistence that they stop military aid to the Afghan forces they will leave in place before the US stops its aid to the freedom fighters. This should be a staunch US position. To do otherwise would be unconscionable.

What the Soviets are trying to do is shape the future of Afghanistan — to win politically what they have failed to win militarily. Of concern to Moscow is any perception of "weakness" in Afghanistan. That, the Soviet leadership fears, might encourage ethnic separatists in the Soviet Union, or hearten Eastern European countries, to follow courses more independent of Moscow.

But the US has no obligation to bail out the USSR in Afghanistan. The American obligation is to the guerrillas who have fought so bravely, and to the 5 million Afghan refugees who have been displaced from their country. They should not be left to the retribution of the Soviet regime in Kabul, with a continuing supply of military aid from Moscow.

The Afghan guerrillas are tough, cantankerous and not

necessarily democratic meddles. But they deserve better than to be left without bullets to face the guns of Afghanistan's Soviet puppets.

Unless the US role in Nicaragua is to end in infamy, the same must be said of the Nicaraguan Contras. Just days before the rescheduled resumption of cease-fire talks with the ruling Sandinistas, they faced a new Sandino military offensive. They faced it without the support of the on-again, off-again US Congress, which has alternately voted aid and then cut it off, depending on its whim. Currently the aid is turned off, and despite Ronald Reagan's urging, Democratic leaders are not inclined to vote on a new package.

Like the Afghan freedom fighters, the Contras are quarrelsome at times among themselves, and have been guilty of excesses and human rights abuses — just like the Sandinistas. The Sandinistas have resurfaced their "turbs" — gangs of rock-throwing thugs used to break up opposition political meetings. The "turbs" were curbed in 1984, but have apparently been given the Sandinist green light to operate again.

Though the Contras may not be ideal democrats, they too deserve some consistency of US support.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

## More progress means less water in Indian drought

By Aisha Ram

NEW DELHI, (Panas): Villagers in the north-east state of Rajasthan who have been facing the effects of three to five years of prolonged drought, are pressing for a speedy restoration of successful, traditional methods of storing water which "progress" has let fall into decay.

Unfortunately, the villagers' enlightenment seems not to have reached the authorities who control the resources and technology needed to restore traditional water-collecting and storage methods. Rather, the authorities are determined to press ahead with plans to install piped water — one of the major reasons why the traditional methods have fallen into decline.

Rajasthan's dry climate has not changed drastically, but in the past even if it did not rain for two or three years, the 'baolis' (large open wells with steps), 'talavs' (huge open concrete-lined tanks), 'kuinyas' (small dug-outs where rain water is collected), and 'tanks' built into the basement of most houses, collected sufficient water to see people through the dry years.

But, as piped water supply became both available as well as fashionable, the old, time-tested methods of catching and storing water fell into disuse. Villagers who previously collected and stored their own water became increasingly more dependent on the government for piped water. Today, as elsewhere in the

region, many of Jodhpur's traditional talavs and baolis have become the dumping grounds for the city's garbage. What is worse, the provision of piped water has led to the over-exploitation of groundwater supplies.

During 1987, Bikaner received 238mm of rain, compared with a normal rainfall level of 260mm. Although this was not much of a reduction, water has become a scarce, precious commodity in the walled city of Bikaner. When their taps are dry, people now have to pay Rs 10 (75 cents) to fill up their overhead tanks.

**Famine**  
Udaipur — ironically known as the Lake City — is facing an unprecedented water famine. The Fateh sagar and Pichola lakes which met all the city's water needs in the past, have almost dried up.

In Jodhpur, the piped water supply is available once in two days. In Beawar, it comes once in four days. On the day when there is water in the taps there is a mad scramble to fill up buckets or any other receptacles to hand. The other days of the week water has to be brought in by rail in tankers.

Yet towns like Jodhpur and Udaipur would not be facing water-shortage crises if surface water was still collected and stored as it used to be.

It is estimated that 50 per cent to 60 per cent of surface water is allowed to run off the land and is lost every year. If caught and stored or allowed to sink into the ground it would restore the ground aquifers which are fast drying-up.

"It is not enough to spend millions of rupees sinking tubewells and trying to deliver piped water to the arid interiors of Rajasthan. Renovation and restoration of ancient methods of conservation has to be undertaken simultaneously," says Om Thani, who recently completed a study of Rajasthan's water crisis for the Indian Centre for Science and Environment.

Ten years ago talavs and baolis were part of the social structure. Fairs were held near them and water was considered too precious to be wasted. Rain was considered the purest form of water and often small temples were constructed near the water-collection points. Neither animals nor men with shoes were allowed to pollute these water sources.

In western Rajasthan "tanks" were an integral part of every house. Houses had sloping roofs and channels and pipes that would collect every drop of rain water and take it straight to the concrete tanks at the base of the house.

Tanks could also be constructed in the courtyard, or in community tanks in the centre of the village. They were usually kept covered and locked so that neither children nor animals could fall into them.

**Habit**  
The traditional Rajasthani habit of using water sparingly is also dying out. In the old days people would bathe in huge 'praths' (huge iron plates in which wheat flour is kneaded) or at special places where the waste water could be collected and used later for cleaning the houses, or for bathing the animals. Visitors to a village would be offered only one jug of water. If they were still thirsty they would be offered milk.

This year, of the 35 talavs in Bikaner only one has any water, and the annual religious fair could not be held at Kolayat

talav because there was no water for the sacred bath.

In Jodhpur there were 43 talavs, 42 baolis and 72 open wells but they have all fallen into disuse as the dream of piped water supply became a reality and various building operations were undertaken in the catchment areas.

The Kijalane talav of Jodhpur has become dry because of the sandstone mining carried out within its 32 sq km catchment area. Since the Rajasthan government earns something like Rs 20 million (\$1.5 million) from mining, it is reluctant to give it up for something as un lucrative as collection of water.

## Drought

However, following a severe drought in 1985, the people of the city organised themselves and cleaned up Tapi Baoli which is now supplying them with water. Four more baolis and 10 open wells have also been renovated and are in use again, and due to public pressure, seven more open wells are currently under repair.

But with an allocation of Rs 200 million (\$15 million) for providing drinking water to the whole city, politicians and engineers are more interested in providing piped water than in repairing the talavs and baolis.

Traditionally, it was only when the collected surface water was exhausted or low that the ground water was tapped. Now the private purchase of tube wells is depressing the water table.

Rampura and Mathaiya villages of Jodhpur district are extremely rich. The area is known as Rajasthan's chille belt and irrespective of whether it rains or not the villagers get two crops each year.

But the ground water board has pointed out that the water table has dropped by 11.6m since 1973. The two villages have 60 tubewells of which just 17 have been installed by the government.

In addition there are 828 open wells and 90 per cent of them are being worked with motors exactly like tube wells. There are only 17 traditional open wells and since the rich farmers' tubewells suck up all the water there is nothing left in the wells used by the poor.

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## Polish journalists dodge censorship

By Andrew Tarnowski

WARSAW, (Reuters): Press freedom has expanded in recent years in Poland but some well-known Polish journalists still regularly meet deep underground to ply their trade.

In a half-finished cellar under a Warsaw church they "publish" the Sunday Bell, a spoken newspaper with all the news and views not fit to print in communist-ruled Poland's officially-controlled press.

Up to 300 people pack the cellar under the Church of God's Mercy once a month to hear former journalistic luminaries of the Solidarity era report on the burning issues of the day.

"Me and my friends come here because we don't believe everything the newspapers tell us and we want to know other things," said a middle-aged woman at the 18th "edition."

"We don't believe the press is free. Not yet."

To prove the point, journalist Katarzyna Kolodziejczyk described what she said were police baton charges against students who tried to lay flowers at a Warsaw monument on a political anniversary in March.

**Clash**  
Such a clash was not reported in the press. Government spokesman Jerzy Urban challenged foreign correspondents who saw and reported it, saying police used no violence.

Control over the media in Poland is exercised by censors sitting in newspaper, television and radio offices to enforce a 1981 censorship law. Periodicals send proofs for scrutiny at the main Office for Control of Publications and Plays.

Articles in Catholic newspapers appear with dashes and footnotes indicating deletions and bans. Deletions have also appeared in Konfrontacje (Confrontations), a new official magazine.

At the Sunday Bell dissident journalists admit the media enjoy substantial freedoms compared with the pre-Solidarity era and are still breaking new ground.

In January the communist weekly Polityka published a letter urging party leader Wojciech

Jaruzelski and Solidarity leader Lech Walesa to meet to save Poland from disaster. Jaruzelski opposes the idea of a meeting.

In February, Konfrontacje published an unprecedented interview with Bronislaw Geremek, a top adviser to Walesa.

In March, the Communist Party daily Trybuna Ludu printed a letter from intellectuals accusing the Soviet Union of the World War II massacre of 15,000 Polish officers, a crime blamed by Moscow and Warsaw on the Nazis.

"Yes, there is a great advance now. There is a lot of news in the official press, especially on the economy and the environment," said Stefan Bratkowski, organiser of the Sunday Bell and former president of the Polish Journalists Association, dissolved under martial law in March 1982.

But big holes in information and restrictions on political reporting made the spoken journalism sessions still necessary.

"It's a matter of being free to comment. In the press you're not free to comment on all events," Bratkowski said.

"Our meetings are a chance for leading Polish journalists to speak freely. Most are still outsiders since 1,000 were fired under martial law."

Twenty "articles" feature in Sunday Bell "editions."

Top foreign stories this year are the troubles in Soviet Armenia and the chances of a Soviet pullout from Afghanistan.

**Behind**

"Our press has gone further than the Soviet press in reporting on Armenia," said a speaker.

"But on every other issue our press is behind the Soviet press." A prominent Catholic journalist outlined Pope John Paul's latest encyclical. An opposition spokesman reported on abortive efforts to regain legal status for their banned associations.

Spokesmen for rival factions of the Socialist Party, a banned non-Marxist group, detailed a party split involving charges of police infiltration.

But the most critical commentaries were aimed at the government and its economic and political reform efforts.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1593 — Henry Barrow, a puritan, is executed on charge of slandering England's Queen Elizabeth I.

1648 — Naples is restored to Spanish rule by Don John.

1664 — Alliance between Saxony and France is signed at Ratisbon.

1793 — Committee of public safety is established in France with dictatorial powers dominated by G.J. Danton.

1812 — British forces capture Badajoz in Spain.

1823 — French forces cross Bidossou River and war with Spain begins.

1897 — Sultan of Zanzibar abolishes slavery.

1901 — Russia drops draft convention with China after protests by Britain and Japan.

1909 — US explorer Robert E. Peary reaches North Pole.

1917 — United States declares war on Germany.

1928 — Palmas Island near Philippines is awarded to Holland in arbitration of dispute with United States.

1945 — US naval forces score major victory over Japanese at Kyushu in World War II.

1948 — Central legislature of British East Africa holds first session in Nairobi.







# Michael J. Fox: Hollywood's little big man

To the older generation, he is the ideal son. To young women he is a romantic figure. To his peers, Fox represents a guy they would like to know. Both in cinema and television, the diminutive 26-year-old Fox has captivated enormous and loyal audiences. What is the secret of his remarkable success?

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): Not since Mickey Rooney in the 1930s and '40s has the American public enjoyed a more universal love affair than with Michael J. Fox.

Both in motion pictures and television, Fox has captivated enormous and loyal audiences playing an '80s version of the all-American boy — even though he is Canadian.

Like Rooney, who is now approaching 70, the 26-year-old Fox is diminutive (5-foot-4), energetic and a superlative actor.

His impact on the public was instantaneous with his role of Alex Keaton in the weekly sitcom, *Family Ties*, which made its debut on NBC in September 1982 when he was 20 and playing a 16-year-old.

Since then, Fox has starred in four movies that have grossed almost a half-billion dollars — probably surpassing Rooney's box-office records — thanks in no small part to inflated admission prices.

In his long career Rooney made more than 100 movies

and starred in a couple of unsuccessful TV series, *Mickey* (1954-55) and *One Of The Boys* (1982).

Fox and *Family Ties*, on the other hand, has been a smash hit for six years, almost always among the top five shows in the Nielsen ratings.

The busy young actor is flattered by comparison to Rooney and said he is an admirer of the Mick and has seen many of his old films on the tube.

As did Rooney, Fox has established his own production company, Snow Back Productions, with headquarters at Paramount studios where *Family Ties* is taped.

The other day Fox sat behind his glass-topped desk and surveyed his new office. He was wearing a sweatshirt, blue jeans and jogging shoes.

"Look around these offices and wonder when some big executive is going to come in and kick me out," he said, lighting a cigarette.

His company's name, Snow Back, refers to his origins. Canadian immigrants with US work permits have been referred to by some as snowbacks, a sharp contrast to the



Fox: energetic and a superlative actor

derogatory label of "wetback" for Mexican immigrants.

Of his growing popularity with moviegoers, Fox said, "It can be fun on the celebrity side of things, but it can be a nuisance too. Being accepted as part of the American family is great."

To the older generation, he is the ideal son. To young women, he is a romantic figure. To his peers, Fox represents a guy they would like to get to know. But Fox is unsure whether his image — as Alex or the bright young guy he plays in movies — isn't confused with the sort of young man he is in real life.

His current favour with audiences will soon be tested with the release of his new picture *Bright Lights, Big City*, in which he plays a cocaine addict.

His role does not simply shatter his scrubbed image. It is more complex than that. Fox says the film suggests that even the clean-cut, highly motivated boy next door can become a coke freak.

It represents a major turn in Fox's career, and it has given him pause.

"This picture makes me

think that anyone with a public image usually keeps and manipulates it to promote his career, but it's not a conscious thing with me."

"I don't have an agenda with my career. It's not set or carefully planned. I accept a role because I like and respond to it."

Essentially, Fox is not only playing a character completely different from his other film roles, he is also portraying an adult, which is another step in his career development.

"That wasn't premeditated either," he said. "I'm not that smart, or that stupid, whatever way it works."

"The man I play in the picture is 24 and I am more interested in playing people in their mid-20s, my own age. It's a natural development that characters my age would appeal to me, but if I found the role of a 15-year-old really stimulating, I would take it in a minute."

"My work is fascinating right now. I don't mean to push myself away from the engaging character I've played and I'm not particularly anxious to portray an unsympathetic role."

"I enjoy being a guy people feel comfortable with. The fun is taking a likeable individual and putting him in an unlikely situation, which is what happens in *Bright Lights, Big City*."

"The only trouble is people might think I am making a personal statement in the picture. That's not the case. It's a story about how all of us take a wrong turn now and then. It deals with the human and moral dilemma of drugs."

Fox said he hoped regular viewers of *Family Ties* would not confuse his new movie role with his TV role as Alex.

"Maybe they'll be shocked to see me snorting coke," he said.

"That would be great in one sense. Then they'll realize it could happen to anyone, even Alex or Marty McFly, my character in *Back To The Future*."

It was *Back To The Future* that made Fox a movie superstar. Previously, he had appeared in two mediocre films he would just as soon forget, *Midnight Madness*, and *Class Of 84*.

The he starred in *Teen Wolf*, which earned \$80 million on a \$1.5 million budget.

*Back To The Future* was a megahit that grossed \$250 million worldwide. Then followed *Light Of Day*, which earned \$15 million domestic, and the runaway hit, *The Secret Of My Success*, which so far has grossed more than \$100 million.

He thought he'd always play the guy who doesn't get the girl, but he won Helen Slater in *The Secret Of My Success*, off-screen too.

"I read the book *Bright Lights, Big City* several years ago and liked it. Then (producer) Sydney Pollack came along and asked me to do the movie version. I liked the script."

"I see the cocaine and night-life element of the picture as peripheral to the central theme, which is about a talented, generous, self-motivated guy with problems."

"I hope the good feeling audiences have for me will help them understand and know this character. There's a real guy in there and to make him likeable is what makes it worthwhile for me."

"At the start of the film his life is going in the toilet. He's not functioning, but he has the dignity to overcome his attitudes. I love one line in the film in which he says, 'I have the shabby nobility in failing all by myself.'"

Essentially, Fox is not only playing a character completely different from his other film roles, he is also portraying an adult, which is another step in his career development.

"That wasn't premeditated either," he said. "I'm not that smart, or that stupid, whi-

chever way it works.

"The man I play in the picture is 24 and I am more interested in playing people in their mid-20s, my own age. It's a natural development that characters my age would appeal to me, but if I found the role of a 15-year-old really stimulating, I would take it in a minute."

"My work is fascinating right now. I don't mean to push myself away from the engaging character I've played and I'm not particularly anxious to portray an unsympathetic role."

"I enjoy being a guy people feel comfortable with. The fun is taking a likeable individual and putting him in an unlikely situation, which is what happens in *Bright Lights, Big City*."

"The only trouble is people might think I am making a personal statement in the picture. That's not the case. It's a story about how all of us take a wrong turn now and then. It deals with the human and moral dilemma of drugs."

Fox said he hoped regular viewers of *Family Ties* would not confuse his new movie role with his TV role as Alex.

"Maybe they'll be shocked to see me snorting coke," he said.

"That would be great in one sense. Then they'll realize it could happen to anyone, even Alex or Marty McFly, my character in *Back To The Future*."

It was *Back To The Future* that made Fox a movie superstar. Previously, he had appeared in two mediocre films he would just as soon forget, *Midnight Madness*, and *Class Of 84*.

The he starred in *Teen Wolf*, which earned \$80 million on a \$1.5 million budget.

*Back To The Future* was a megahit that grossed \$250 million worldwide. Then followed *Light Of Day*, which earned \$15 million domestic, and the runaway hit, *The Secret Of My Success*, which so far has grossed more than \$100 million.



Peter O'Toole: not concerned with accepting roles that might win Oscars. He's happy just to act.

## Oscar eludes O'Toole again

Nominated seven times without result, Peter O'Toole hasn't 'the faintest idea' why the coveted award continually slips through his grasp.

By Vira Lynn Jones

NEW YORK, March 15, (Reuters): Peter O'Toole sat groggy eyed in an early morning interview, chain-smoking cigarettes for breakfast.

The 55-year-old actor was mumbling that he would 'love to have an Oscar' but the seven-time nominee didn't have 'the faintest idea' why the coveted award continually slipped through his grasp.

Even though *The Last Emperor* is in the running for nine academy awards, more than any other film, O'Toole was not nominated for his portrayal of Reginald 'R.J.' Johnston, the Scottish tutor of China's young emperor.

But, the lanky Irishman said, he was not concerned with accepting roles that might give him a shot at an Oscar. He's just happy with an opportunity to act.

"Whether it's radio, television or theatre," O'Toole said, "I'm from a generation of actors who have multiple forms of expression. But the form I prefer is the theatre."

O'Toole was in New York on a break from his forthcoming movie comedy, *High Spirits*, being filmed in Ireland and England.

"I'm playing an Anglo-Irish owner of a rather dilapidated castle," O'Toole said. "He's looking for ways of cheering up the castle. So, he comes up with the idea of inhabiting it with ghosts."

As for *The Last Emperor*, O'Toole said he decided to tackle the role because "it was a remarkable yarn — a Cinderella fairy tale in reverse."

"It was an amazing story set in this 15th century Ming maze of palaces," he said. "To Westerners, it was an oriental fairy tale that took place in a span of a few years of our lifetime."

Johnston became Emperor Pu Yi's tutor when the boy was 13. He remained as teacher, friend and adviser for 12 years, during the collapse of the Chinese empire.

During research for *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962) — one of several memorable roles that earned him an Oscar nomination but not the award — O'Toole mastered bedouin tribal customs, attained some fluency in Arabic, and learned to ride a camel.

He approached his three-month role in China, however, more subtly, delving into Chinese history books in order to understand the complexity of

his role and the country. "Every day I felt there was another book to read to shed some light on this ignorance (about China) descending upon me," he said.

O'Toole said of Johnston: "He was a senior colonial figure who disgraced himself by publishing a pamphlet in Chinese attacking the role of the missionary."

Johnston wanted to be Governor of Hong Kong, but it looked like he had blown his career. He was given an opportunity to mould the great radical forces in China, by becoming Pu Yi's tutor.

"If you look at the man Peter O'Toole, he would love to have had such an opportunity."

After receiving acclaim and four Oscar nominations in the 1960s — for *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Goodbye Mr. Chips*, and *The Lion in Winter* — O'Toole's career faltered.

In the 1970s, he got another Oscar nomination for *The Ruling Class*, but during most of the decade, hits were outnumbered by flops.

Doctors also told O'Toole that he would be dead within a few weeks from blood cancer, an incorrect diagnosis.

O'Toole lit another cigarette and said slowly, as if reciting Shakespeare, "One's redemption is a good role in a good play which is successful."

"For Johnston, his role seemed to have been blown. He found redemption by becoming the Emperor's tutor."

"In my case or in any actor's case, if one has had a lean time, if the opportunity comes along to be in something excellent and it is an excellent work, then redemption comes."

His own redemption began in the 1980s with *The Saint* Man which brought him a sixth Oscar nomination. Number seven came for *My Favourite Year* in which O'Toole played Alan Swann, a swashbuckling, boozey matinee idol.

The last Emperor brought O'Toole to China for the first time. He called it "bewildering."

"I sensed each day, more and more, my own ignorance of the place. My choice was to stand there, mutter a few phrases and use my ears, eyes, nose and the bicycle," he added.

He said he spent his spare time in the museums and galleries of Peking and managed a three-day trip to Qu Fu, birthplace of the 'ole boy' — his description of the Chinese philosopher Confucius.



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

The world economy after the crash

## World markets balanced in uneasy equipoise

By Midas

IT is now five and a half months since the October crash stunned world markets with its sudden ferocity. A large part of the alarm was caused by the fact that when international, electronically powered, panic set in, no market was immune from its effects.

The old conservative wisdom of spreading one's investment throughout the world's major markets, London, New York, Japan, proved to be a fallacy. They all fell simultaneously, along with Sydney, Madrid, Paris, Kuala Lumpur and almost everywhere else.

Some, like Tokyo, didn't fall quite so far as others, but even that gave little comfort since in purely economic terms, Japan was obviously much more overpriced than London, yet the latter dropped further than almost anywhere else, save Australia.

Since there seemed no logical

reason for the discrepancy, investors could take no comfort from Japan's seeming resilience.

At the present time, the situation bears an uncanny resemblance to the situation in April 1930, after the traumatic crash of Black Tuesday, October 29, 1929. After both crashes, 1929 and 1987, the New Year showed a rally as shares struggled upwards from the wreckage.

But by April 1930, that rally, like the present one, had stumbled fitfully to a halt. London has dropped 100 points in the last week.

In Professor J.K. Galbraith's classic study, "The Great Crash", he outlines what happened next. In June 1930 there was another steep drop in share prices and thereafter the market dropped week by week, month by month and year by year until the end of June 1932.

At that point, prices stood at roughly 10 per cent of what they had been just before the debacle started.

Will it happen again? If I knew the answer to that I'd be on the verge of making a fortune. The plain truth is that nobody knows for sure. If everyone predicts disaster, then it is still possible that it won't happen. As Paul Getty always said, the way to get REALLY rich, is to go against the general opinion every time. His logic is that if you do, you may occasionally lose, but when you win, you'll win BIG!

### Bearish

However, there is an increasing body of serious opinion that is warning that the bear market is by no means over yet. The chartists, those people who study historical graphs and charts to discover clues to present trends, are predicting that the bear market has only just begun.

Brian Marber, a well-known practitioner of this arcane art, argues that London and New York are in the early stages of a bear market and Tokyo looks "extremely bearish."

Even Barclays De Zoete Wedd, the stockbroking arm of Barclays Bank, has issued a warning circular entitled, "Second Leg of the Bear Market 1989."

However, it's not all bad news. The fact is that the world has plenty of money right now, huge amounts of institutional cash from things like pension funds, savings funds and so on.

This money has to go somewhere. If the markets fall, sooner or later this cash mountain will be tempted to move back into shares while prices are low.

At that point, according to the argument, the markets will stabilise and then start to rise again.

That may be true for Britain, where the government has managed to cut its borrowing dramatically, but it may even be true for Japan just because there is so much cash sloshing around over there that Japanese savers could afford to give every man, woman and child on the planet \$500 each!

Nevertheless, the gigantic American deficit is sucking in such enormous amounts of cash simply to finance the debt that the pressure is on to raise interest rates on T Bills simply to keep investors willing to finance the whole mess. That sucks money out of the market and contributes to the shakiness of current share prices.

For the moment, world markets are balanced in uneasy equipoise. Compared to recent years, share prices seem cheap, there are bargains to be had, so investors are tempted to step in.

On the other hand, the risks are high that the whole system will go into another steep dive. That's the dilemma, but there is another, crucial factor.

The psychology of the herd would suggest that since people are already nervous, any sudden dip in prices, no matter how innocent, would straightaway lead to another stampeding

panic.

If that should happen, then even the depressed prices right after last October will begin to look like stratospheric heights.

So what are the signs to look out for? In British terms, if the market FTSE 100 Share Index falls below 1,700 then look out, a major fall is on its way.

Currently it stands at 1,742. Another sign to watch for is the threat of protectionism.

### Imports

If a new American President starts making serious noises about keeping out cheap foreign imports, that's a clear recipe for global disaster. Even if the merely raises bond rates significantly, that could be enough to suck money out of the equity markets and trigger an avalanche.

Investment advice, in view of all of the above? Play it safe. For the next year, forget about profits, just worry about risks. If you minimise those, you'll probably be ahead of the game.

## Plan to set up special fund to guarantee investments

MUSCAT, April 5, (Kuna): The Inter Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation has endorsed the idea of establishing a special fund to guarantee investments of Arab and Islamic banks, companies and financial bodies.

In its 15th annual meeting held last night, the corporation's board of directors has decided to sign an agreement with the UN Development Programme to co-finance a study, through which the corporation intends to evaluate some selected Arab investment projects.

The meeting reviewed the problem of arrears of member states presently at about \$11 million which equals 12.5 per cent of the capital.

Meanwhile, the corporation's financial report put 1987 revenues at close to \$18 million, over \$6 million more than figures in the budget.

Investments of the corporation were valued at more than \$135 million and achieved a total revenue of \$16 million, the report indicated.

## Spanish daily hails Kuwait's economic policy

MADRID, April 5, (Kuna): A leading economic daily last week heaped praise on the economic policy of Kuwait and urged Spain to follow the example of the Arab Gulf state.

In a lengthy article, Cinco Dias newspaper said that "the astonishing phenomenon of Kuwait is not so much the fact that it fulfilled the dream of offering free services to its citizens but the way by which it made that dream come true."

Kuwait, the newspaper wrote, "is the example of those who transform sand into gold by ceaseless and tireless endeavour thanks to the wise leadership of the Amir of the country."

**Surplus**

A great deal of the praise goes to HH the Amir whose economic policy rested on investing surplus oil revenues to the service of the present and future generations of the country, the economic daily said.

## Abu Dhabi hotel profits surge

ABU DHABI, April 5, (Kuna): The Abu Dhabi National Hotel Company has announced a 13 per cent increase in profits to Dh40 million in 1987 from Dh35.8 million in the previous year.

The company at its annual board of directors meeting has agreed to pay dividends totalling Dh27.5 million to its shareholders representing 25 per cent of its capital.

The company's chairman Nasser Al Nowais who is also undersecretary at the Ministry of Finance and Industry and chairman of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development attributed the profits to three factors.

These, he said, were the rise in the company's catering operations, reduction of expenditure and rise in room occupancy due to increased tourism from other Gulf states.

## Arab overseas investments total \$350,000m

ARAB investments abroad are estimated at \$350,000 million. But these huge assets, the result of a unique oil decade, are vulnerable. Arab investors are estimated to have lost \$20,000 million in the October stock market crash. And, since 1985, Arab dollar investments are believed to have lost 50 per cent of their purchasing power as a result of instability in exchange markets, according to MEED.

The figures were revealed by Union of Arab Banks chairman Anwar-el-Khalil during the opening address at this year's union conference. Arab banks facing up to Arab investments abroad.

Held in London from March 29-31 and attended by the region's top bankers, the conference studied the role of investments, the risks attached, and ways of increasing the returns on Arab funds in international and Arab financial institutions.

El Khalil pointed out that Arab governments' investments amount to \$200,000 million and the private sector's to \$150,000 million.

Arab institutions have established huge banking networks internally, regionally and internationally, he said. "The total assets of the Arab commercial banks only stood in excess of \$310,000 million at the end of 1986, whereas they were just below \$25,000 million in 1973 on the eve of the first substantial adjustment of crude oil prices and \$114,000 million on the eve of the second crude oil price adjustment in 1979."

**Growth**

Ibrahim Dabdoub, general manager of National Bank of Kuwait, believes the region will continue as "an oasis of stability enjoying control over vast financial assets."

During his address to the conference, he said: "As physical

limitations will preclude the development of a widely diversified industrial base, we shall develop all the characteristics of rentier economies with a remarkable degree of intra-regional and international capital mobility.

Accordingly, our economic structure certainly points to the prospects for the growth of the financial services industry in the region within which the role of portfolio management will figure pre-eminently.

"This envisaged growth should lead to the gradual expansion of the domestic financial markets followed by a growing regional public-sector borrowing requirement as the capabilities and potential of investor demand are explored."

"Similar initiatives are already under way in Saudi Arabia and can be expected to spread more heavily through the GCC states."

"The ability of the commercial banks in this region to render

one-stop or universal financial services to their clients renders them the favourites for continued growth in the area of portfolio management. However, such growth will not be easily accomplished as the skills required for successful portfolio management are by no means complementary to the traditional commercial banking skills upon which we have been honed.

### Suppliers

"The successful implementation of the steady growth which I foresee at the third phase of Arab involvement in investment management will leave our regional financial institutions well-placed to capitalise upon the eventual fourth phase."

"This should occur when, in the late 1990s, the energy supply/demand equation reverts in favour of suppliers, and the economies of our region, again

experience positive budgetary surpluses which, as a result of the primary infrastructural development of our region now being in place, will inevitably require them to be deployed in the international investment markets."

Other speakers at the conference were: Mohammed Said Nabulsi, executive secretary of the UN Economic & Social Commission of West Asia; Abdullahi, president of Arab Banking Corporation; Ahmed Abdullahi, managing director of Riyadh Bank; Hikmat Nashashibi, chairman of Arab Bankers' Association; Nemir Kirdar, president of Arabian Investment Banking Corporation; Ghazi Abdul-Jawad, general manager of Gulf International Bank; Christopher Keen, general manager of United Bank of Kuwait; and Abdul-Wahab Al Tammar, president of Al Tammar Economic Consultants.

## IBM sells chips to competitors but will not enter open market

NEW YORK, April 5, (Reuters): The computer giant International Business Machines Corp. said today it had no plans to mass market semiconductors although it had supplied small quantities of its computer chips to competitors.

IBM officials said its sale of chips to European and US competitors was not an attempt to prevent US firms from becoming dependent on Japanese semiconductor suppliers.

"Over the past couple of years we have offered limited quantities of semiconductors to a very small number of companies internationally," said IBM spokesman Peter Thonis, who declined to name the companies or the amounts involved.

**Largest**

IBM is the world's largest maker of both computers and semiconductors, the tiny silicon wafers that are the brains of virtually all electronic equipment, from computers to microwave ovens to guided missiles.

The Armonk, N.Y.-based company considers its chips a

major competitive advantage and does not routinely sell them on the open market and Thonis said the chip sales were not a move by IBM to enter the mass market.

Thonis spoke with Reuters after Jack Kuehler, IBM vice president and senior engineer, disclosed the chip sales in an interview with the New York Times published yesterday.

The newspaper reported that IBM has supplied some competitors with state-of-the-art computer chips for more than two years, confirming rumours in circulation for months.

It said that IBM, responding to inquiries, disclosed last week it had offered small quantities of its advanced chips to fewer than a dozen US and European competitors.

The paper reported, however, that Kuehler said the shift in corporate policy was not a move to prevent US firms becoming dependent on Japanese semiconductor suppliers.

Speaking with Reuters, Thonis also rejected speculation

that the chip sales were aimed at preventing US computer companies from becoming dependent on Japanese suppliers or at paving the way for IBM to mass market its semiconductors.

"We are neither accepting orders for semiconductors nor are we increasing (manufacturing) capacity," said Thonis, adding that IBM aimed to "sharpen our effort competitively."

**Sales**

Analysts said the sales probably do not exceed \$20 million a year, compared with IBM's total yearly output of about \$3.5 billion.

IBM has played a key role in helping to ensure that the US chip industry keeps pace with the Japanese, most notably with its strong support of Sematech, a consortium of American chip makers that is trying to boost US competitiveness.

"If Sematech doesn't work, IBM may become a bigger source of chips to other computer companies," Adam Cuhney, an analyst with Kidder, Peabody Co.

## US industry holds out hope in Japan beef, citrus talks

WASHINGTON, April 5, (Reuters): The United States and Japan may yet reach agreement over beef and citrus trade despite the expiration of a four-year pact last week and the breakdown of talks to renew it, US beef industry officials say.

Japan might block a US request for the formation of a dispute panel when the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) council meets April 8.

But the officials said the two sides would continue negotiating over the US demand that Tokyo lift its quotas and they say Japan might agree to a timetable for opening its markets before the GATT council meets again in May.

### Inevitable

"Most Japanese politicians and farmers recognise that liberalisation is inevitable. They will oppose an end to the quotas until the last moment to see what compromises can be had," said Tom Cook, director of industry affairs at the National Cattlemen's Association.

US and Japanese negotiators broke off talks last Thursday after Tokyo refused to dismantle its quotas, scuttling a bilateral agreement governing about \$500 million of annual exports of US beef, veal, oranges and orange juice.

US Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter told reporters after three days of talks with Japanese Agriculture Minister Takashi Sato, that Washington would challenge the legality of the quotas before the GATT.

## Fed official wants to step up fight against inflation

WASHINGTON, April 5, (Reuters): US Federal Reserve Board governor Wayne Angell said today the central bank should pursue a cautious monetary policy aimed at curbing inflation considerably in the months ahead.

His comments suggested the Fed, whose six board members are all Republican appointees, was willing to raise interest rates this election year if necessary to stop inflation from bubbling up, economists said.

The consumer price index, measuring inflation at the retail level, was increasing at an annual

rate of 3.9 per cent, Angell noted.

Although this was down from 4.4 per cent at the end of 1987, the Fed needed to tell people that it intends to make further gains, Angell told a US television interviewer.

"It seems to me it's very important that we stay in that three per cent range this year, and I'd like to see the CPI get back into the two per cent range by 1989," he said.

Angell's emphasis on inflation was likely to fan fears in the US financial markets that the Fed was already nudging up interest

rates a bit to nip price pressures in the bud.

The 30-year US Treasury bond yield, a benchmark for mortgage and corporate bond rates, rose to 8.87 per cent yesterday from 8.76 per cent before the weekend as investors braced for a tightening of credit conditions by the Fed to prevent the economy from overheating.

**Lower**

In late January, the Fed pushed interest rates lower to help an economy that was slowing because of October's stock market crash, which left piles of unsold goods on shop shelves.

But most economic statistics since then have been surprisingly strong, culminating with Friday's news that businesses hired another 262,000 workers last month on top of the 517,000 jobs created in February.

**Explosion**

The unemployment rate fell to 5.6 per cent in March, the lowest level this decade, and Fed officials fear an explosion of wage costs if the job market tightens further.

Higher interest rates would also support the dollar, Angell said. He described the present exchange rate as "about right."

## Independent bank vital to control inflation in China

BEIJING, April 5, (Reuters): Delegates to China's parliament have called for a truly independent central bank, which they say is vital to end four years of excess issue of money and to control inflation, the nation's number one economic enemy.

The Financial Times reported on Friday that 42 delegates had proposed to the National People's Congress (NPC) real independence for the People's Bank of China, and more NPC supervision of national finances.

It was unclear how much support there was for the proposals at the Congress, which is now in session in Beijing.

Chinese economists said the proposal reflected alarm in banking circles over what they see as irresponsible monetary policies in face of mounting inflation.

Some delegates said the bank had been unable to curb excess printing of money since 1984, a major factor in the country's worst inflation since the communists came to power in 1949.

**Problem**

In his keynote speech to the NPC, acting Premier Li Peng said the "outstanding problem in our economic and social life (is) the excessive rise in commodity prices."

A survey of city dwellers con-

ducted last October and appearing last week in the economic daily found that 83 per cent were unhappy about price increases, a higher proportion than five months earlier, and that 45 per cent thought the increases had caused their standard of living to fall.

In an editorial, the Financial Times said one main reason for the price increases and inflation was an increase in money supply averaging 21 per cent a year from 1984 to 1987, far more than the average 13 per cent rise in industrial output.

This meant too much money in people's pockets and too much spending power, which pushed

up prices. The NPC delegates said the central bank had been unable to strictly control the issue of money and had to print money to finance the state deficit and government construction projects.

**Responsible**

They proposed that the People's Bank be responsible for management of China's currency and credit.

A Chinese official said the bank at present was not independent at all but simply a tool of the state council (cabinet), which ordered how much credit and money to issue.

## World Business Summary

### Venezuela hopes to expand reserves by 2bb in 1988

CARACAS, April 5, (Reuters): Venezuela hopes to increase its proven oil reserves by two billion barrels to 60 billion this year, through new discoveries and secondary recovery in existing fields, the Ministry of Energy and Mines announced today.

The ministry said in its annual report 20 new test wells will be drilled this year in an effort to increase output of light and medium crudes. Venezuela's reserves are currently dominated by lower-priced heavy and super-heavy crudes. Exploration will centre on eastern Monagas and Sucre states, on the area south of Lake Maracaibo, the traditional centre of Venezuela's oil industry. The programme is expected to cost approximately \$142 million, the ministry said. Exploration in recent years has led to the discovery of 8.6 billion barrels in probable reserves of light and medium crudes, comparable to England's North Sea oil fields. Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said on March 14. Plans call for total crude 1988 output to remain at 1.571 million barrels per day (bpd), Venezuela's Opec quota. But condensates, which lie outside the quota, are to increase from 165,000 to 190,000 bpd, and liquid natural gas production will go from 94,000 to 138,000 bpd, the ministry said, raising total production to 1.859 million bpd. Last year's total production was 1.789 million bpd.

Venezuela's crude exports are slated to remain the same at 1.520 million bpd.

### Argentine exports total \$8b

ABU DHABI, April 5, (Kuna): The leader of the visiting Argentine trade delegation and governor of Cordoba Dr Eduardo Angelos declared yesterday that his country's exports to the world last year totalled \$8 billion.

He added, in an interview with Kuna here, that agricultural and animal products and industries based on both formed 75 per cent of the exports, or around \$6 billion.

Angelos, who is nominated for the forthcoming Argentine presidential elections in September next year, added that 30 per cent of the Argentine work force is engaged in the animal and agricultural sectors.

He noted that his current tour was the first of its kind and aims at strengthening relations with countries visited namely Nigeria, India, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the UAE.

The governor, who will conclude his tour by a trip to Kuwait, added that he is accompanied by 111 members including 28 government officials and 83 representatives for the private sector. Angelos expressed satisfaction toward results of his tour, pointing out that it opened a channel for talks with those countries and for boosting contacts.

Invitations were extended to government and chamber of commerce and industry officials to visit Buenos Aires to discuss expanding political and economic ties, he elaborated. Angelos underlined that volume of his country's commercial exchange with the Arab countries was very slim and noted that he was met with a similar desire to increase that quantity, on part of Arab officials. The Cordoba governorate is populated by 2.8 million out of the total Argentine population of 30 million.

### Plan to set up joint projects

LAGOS, April 5, (Opecna): Opec member Nigeria and neighbouring Niger are to set up joint projects of mutual benefit and strengthen their joint commission on cooperation in order to facilitate the establishment of ventures. A communique, signed by Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida and his Niger counterpart Ali Saibou, said that the two countries will also cooperate in harnessing their common water resources.

According to the communique, issued in Abuja at the end of Saibou's two-day visit, the two presidents also expressed confidence in the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) as "the viable institution for the attainment of economic development and social progress in the West African sub-region."

The two leaders also urged Ecowas members to honour their financial obligations to the organisation to enhance its effectiveness and to ensure that it met the objectives for which it was established. The communique expressed concern over Africa's economic problems aggravated by famine, fall in commodity prices and foreign debt which adversely affected African development programmes. Expressing support for the position of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the two presidents stressed that the solution to Africa's debt problems should be addressed at the multilateral level.

They also stressed the need for the intensification of intra-African cooperation to solve the continent's economic problems.

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# WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 1988

## LONDON

(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST
ABBEY LIFE	248/0
ADT LTD	105/0
ALD LYONS	582/0
AMSTRAD	154/0
ARGYLL GP	192/2
ASDA GP	168/0
BAA PP	108/0
BTR	239/0
BAT INDS	408/0
BARCLAYS	474/0
BASS	335/0
BEAZER	170/0
BEECHAMS	450/0
BET ORD	220/0
BICC PLC	300/0
BLUE ARB	115/0
BLUE CIRC	435/0
BOC GP	363/0
BOOTS CO	210/0
BPH INDS	283/0
BR CONH	278/0
BR AIRWAY	163/0
BR AEROSP	390/0
BR GAS PP	129/0
B.P.	258/0
B.P. NEW	68/0
BRITCEL	239/0
BRITTOIL	500/0
BUNZL	140/0
BURMAN OL	503/0
BURTON	235/0
CABLEWIR	324/0
CABURYS	246/0
COATS VYI	231/0
COMM UNI	318/0
COOKS GOLD	850/0
COOKSON	556/0
COURTAUD	320/0
DALGETY	274/0
DEE CP	167/0
DIXONS	169/4
ENG CHINA	393/0
ENTER OIL	337/0
FERRANTI	77/0
FISONS	237/0
GEN ACCID	893/0
GEN ELEC	144/0
GLAXO	985/0
GRANADA	315/0
GLOBE	131/0
GRAND NET	464/0
GUS A	060/0
GUARD RYL	878/0
GKN	288/0
GUINNESS	293/0
HARRISON	576/0
HANSON	124/0
HUKER SID	468/0
HILLSDOWN	265/0
ICI	972/0
IMI	176/0

## LONDON

(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	691/0	683/0
600 GROUP	105/0	105/0
A.B.ELECT	405/0	400/0
AAH HLD	256/0	256/0
AARONSON	124/0	123/0
ADDISON	94/0	93/0
ADVEST	302/0	301/0
ALEX WRKW	159/0	160/0
ALLD COLL	127/0	127/0
ALLD TR B	222/0	220/0
ALLD PLNT	49/0	50/0
ALLIANCE	761/0	757/0
AMARI	179/0	178/0
AMEC	360/0	358/0
AMER TRST	114/0	114/0
AMERSHAM	466/0	465/0
AMI NEW	258/0	258/0
ANGLO TV	387/0	386/0
ANGLIA TV	65/0	65/0
ANSPACHER	396/0	392/0
APPLYEARD	109/0	109/0
APRICOT	103/0	103/0
APV PLC	120/0	119/0
AQUAS.A	70/0	70/0
ARAN ENER	76/0	77/0
ARLINGTON	195/0	195/0
ARMSTRONG	141/0	140/0
ASHLEY.LA	114/0	114/0
ATWOODS	280/0	279/0
AUS REE A	210/0	209/0
AVON RUBB	343/0	345/0
COLLINS W	580/0	583/0
COLLOROLL	1874/0	1866/0
COSTAIN	319/0	318/0
COURTS A	178/0	178/0
COURTS R	258/0	258/0
COUMIE (T)	104/0	104/0
CREST NIC	204/0	203/0
CRODA INT	118/0	118/0
CROTHUR	182/0	178/0
CRSEAT JA	145/0	146/0
CRYSTALAT	152/0	151/0
DARES EST	294/0	294/0
DAMSON IN	190/0	190/0
DE LA RUE	380/0	380/0
DELTA GRP	279/0	279/0
DIPLOMA	201/0	201/0
DRAYTON C	427/0	426/0
DRAYTON J	358/0	358/0
DRG	358/0	358/0
DUNHILL	177/0	177/0
EAGLE RFD	172/0	172/0
EAGLE ST	176/0	176/0
EDIN I.T.	144/0	143/0
ELECTRA	203/0	202/0
ELECTROPH	197/0	198/0
ELLIS EVA	178/0	178/0
ELLIS GVL	59/0	59/0
ENAP	180/0	180/0
EMPIRE ST	209/0	208/0
ERKINE H	219/0	218/0
EURO W R	22/4	22/0
EUROTHERM	337/0	337/0
EUROTHERM	325/0	325/0
EVERED HL	118/0	117/0
EVOLVE GRP	155/0	154/0
F & C PAC	120/0	120/0
FARNELL E	158/0	158/0
FED. HOUSE	273/0	273/0
FENNER JH	167/0	166/0
FERGUSON	277/0	276/0
FINE ARTS	212/0	212/0
FINLINC	78/0	78/0
FITTON LCV	265/0	265/0
FKI BACCK	117/0	117/0
FLM AMER	109/0	108/0
FLM CLAV	228/0	226/0
FLM F.EA	171/0	170/0
FLM JAPN	200/0	200/0
FLM MECA	164/4	164/0
FLM ORCA	144/4	143/0
FLM TECH	133/0	132/0
FLM UNIV	134/0	132/0
FOSECO MI	222/0	221/0
FR GROUP	275/0	272/0
FRESHBAKE	106/0	105/0
FST LEISR	138/0	138/0
FST NAT	234/0	234/0
FST SCOT	383/0	380/0
FUR & COL	99/0	98/0
GARDNER	43/0	43/0
GEES	228/0	228/0
GET INTL	120/0	120/0
GESTETNER	171/0	170/0
GLYNED	459/0	460/0
GRP	77/0	76/0
GRANPH HD	259/0	260/0
GREEN KNG	454/0	455/0
GREENL W	205/0	204/0
GREYCOAT	345/0	345/0
GRUP TV A	44/0	43/0
GT. PLND	290/0	290/0
GUS ORD	625/0	650/0
GVT ATL	113/0	113/0
GVT ORIE	259/0	257/0
GVT STRA	211/0	211/0
H.LND DIS	99/0	100/0
HALL (N)	137/0	137/0
HALLA	148/0	148/0
HAMBROS I	194/0	193/0
HAMBROSON	608/0	608/0
HARRISON C	564/0	564/0
HEATH(CE)	368/0	365/0
HELENE LN	35/0	36/0
HEDDEN-ST	129/0	129/0
HEYWOOD W	295/0	294/0
HICKSON IN	166/0	166/0
HIGGS HIL	338/0	338/0
HINDSON GP	365/0	365/0
BRIDON	157/0	157/0
BRITANNIC	053/0	050/0
BRIXTON E	274/0	274/0
BRUNNER	104/0	104/0
BSG INTL	58/4	58/0
BULMER HP	175/0	175/0
BURGESS	216/0	212/0
CALEDONIA	337/0	335/0
CALOR GRP	541/4	539/4
CAMB ELEC	219/0	220/0
CAMB INST	40/0	40/0
CANNING W	186/0	186/0
CANNON ST	252/0	253/0
CAP GRP	203/0	202/0
CAP.RADIO	182/0	180/0
CARDON	303/0	300/0
CARLO EN	161/0	162/0
CARLESS C	102/4	103/0
CARLTON C	73/0	72/0
CASE GRP	75/0	73/0
CATER ALL	355/0	355/0
CENTL TV	524/0	521/0
CHARTERNA	25/4	26/0
CHAS CHUR	115/0	115/0
CHATER CH	328/0	328/0
CHLORIDE	48/0	48/0
CHRISTIES	529/0	525/0
CI GROUP	43/0	43/0
CYDE PET	119/0	119/0
CNTRL SEC	53/0	53/0
COALITE	292/0	293/0
COATES BR	319/0	320/0
COLLINS A	490/0	490/0
COLLINS W	580/0	583/0
COLLOROLL	1874/0	1866/0
COSTAIN	319/0	318/0
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DELTA GRP	279/0	279/0
DIPLOMA	201/0	201/0
DRAYTON C	427/0	426/0
DRAYTON J	358/0	358/0
DRG	358/0	358/0
DUNHILL	177/0	177/0
EAGLE RFD	172/0	172/0
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EUROTHERM	325/0	325/0
EVERED HL	118/0	117/0
EVOLVE GRP	155/0	154/0
F & C PAC	120/0	120/0
FARNELL E	158/0	158/0
FED. HOUSE	273/0	273/0
FENNER JH	167/0	166/0



## International Bond Highlights

London — Taisei Corp is issuing two equity warrant Eurobonds, lead managers said. The first, a 200 min dir issue lead managed by Yamaichi International (Europe) Ltd, matures in 1992. It has an indicated coupon of four pct and par pricing. Nikko Securities Co (Europe) Ltd manages the second issue, which is for 100 mln dir and matures in 1993. It has an indicated coupon of 4-1/2 pct and par pricing. (RTTJ 0943)

London — Ford Credit Canada Ltd is issuing a 100 mln Canadian dir Eurobond due May 11, 1993, paying 10 pct and priced at 101-3/4 pct, Goldman Sachs International Corp said as lead manager. (RTVE 1427)

London — Mitsubishi Paper Mills Ltd is issuing a 150 mln dir equity warrant Eurobond due April 27, 1993, paying an indicated 4-1/2 pct and priced at par, lead manager Nikko Securities Co. (Europe) Ltd said. (RTUC 1038)

London — Canada Trust Mortgage Company is issuing a 150 mln Canadian dir Eurobond due May 5, 1993 paying 10-1/8 pct and priced at 101-3/8 pct, lead manager McLeod Young Weir International Ltd said. (RTVZ 0837)

## Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 8-5/8 3/8	8-9/16 7/16	8-11/16 9/16
FFY 3-25/35	3-25/35	3-35/35
PAR 7-1/2 9/16	7-3/4 7/8	8-1/16 3/16
ZUR 7/8 1-1/8	1-1/2 1-3/4	1-3/4 2
BRA 3/40	6/00 1/8	6-1/8 1/4
ROM 10-1/4 10-3/4	10-5/8 11-1/8	10-7/8 1FXLAB
AMS 4-0 4-1/16	3-7/8 4-0	4-0 4-1/16
TOK 3.3000 5625	3.6875 7500	3.8750 9375
ECU 6.062 6.187	6.18 6.31	6.37 6.50

## Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average K.D. interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait, yesterday.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	6 1/8	6 7/8
3 months	5 3/4	6 3/8
6 months	5 1/2	5 7/8
1 year	5 7/16	6 1/8

## BOMBAY

PR.	CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	47	65.50	63.75	NICO	495	490	485.50
ACC	132.50	133	133	GRASIM	85	85	85.50	NOCIL	445	442.50	452.50
ASIA PAINT	138.75	136.25	140	GSFC	79	82	81.50	ORICA	17.50	17.25	18
BAJAJ AUTO	187.50	190	195	HIND LEVER	61.50	62.50	64	PEICO	27	27	27.5
BAR. RAYON	180	175	180	HINDALCO	78.50	78	79.50	PFIZER	53	53	54
BOM. DYING	120	120.50	121.50	HINDOCO	71.25	72.50	79.50	PRE. AUTO	24.50	24.50	25
BRE. BOND	82.50	82	84	HINDOTR	17.50	17.25	17.75	RAYMOND	43.50	43	44
BSE INDEX	398.37	397.16	400	IND ORG	16.75	16	18	RELIANCE	77	76	81
CENTURYSPG	760	755	780	INDRATON	50	50	50.50	SIEMENS	57	57	59
COLGATE	165	167.50	171.25	INDROL	136.25	138.75	137.75	SPIC	25	25.50	26
DEEPAKERT	26.50	26	26.50	ITC	33.50	32	33	STONLIS	210	202.50	205
EL. HOTEL	45.50	44	48	JKSYNTH	54	54	52.50	TATA PMR	187.50	185	187.50
ESKAYEF	152.50	156.25	158.75	L AND T	76.50	76.50	78	TATACHEM	59	58	60
ESSAR	17.50	18	17	MAHINDRA	50.50	51	50.50	TELCO	432.50	435	452.50
GAR. POLY	77	76	76.50	MASTERSHR	9.62	9.50	9.62	TISCO	648.75	651.25	663.75
GE. SHIP	26.25	26.35	26.65	MATHER PL	85	82.50	83.50	VOLTA	240	240	247.50

## FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
AEG	247.2	252.5
ALLIANZ VR	1348.0	1349.0
BADENWERK	179.0	177.0
BASF	244.5	245.3
BAYER	263.0	263.2
BAYER HYP	349.0	353.5
BAYER VER	349.0	346.5
BBC	318.0	309.0
BHF	361.0	362.0
BMV	502.0	503.0
CHEMIE-VER	0	120.0
COMMERZB	227.5	228.0
CONTI GUMM	244.3	244.5
DAIHER BEN	639.0	640.0
DEUTSC BK	402.5	404.0
DLW	335.0	334.0
DRESDENER B	238.5	238.0
DT BARCOCK	157.0	156.8
FAZ INDEX	451.72	451.40
BOEDSCHN16	2480.0	2480.0
BUTENHOFF	317.0	317.0
HARPER	407.0	405.0
HOECHST AG	260.9	261.8
HOESCH	115.7	115.5
HORTEN	181.0	181.0
HUSSEL HLD	465.0	459.0
KALI SALZ	131.0	133.0
KARSTADT	444.0	451.0
KAUFGOR	396.0	399.8
KLOECK H	98.9	98.7
KLOECK W	0	81.5
LINDE	584.0	585.0
LUFTHANSA	148.5	149.0
MAN	157.3	157.9
MANNESMAN	121.7	124.2
MERCEDES	532.0	533.0
METALLGES	260.0	264.0
NIXDORF PF	538.0	538.5
NORSK HYD	50.70	50.30
PHILIP KOM	611.0	608.0
PORSCHE	530.0	516.0
PREUSSAG	156.5	156.0
PWA	194.0	195.0
RHEIN	207.0	203.8
RHEIN P	196.8	193.5
RHEINMETAL	295.0	295.0
SALAMANDER	260.5	260.5
SCHERING	437.8	434.5
SEL	314.0	311.0
STENES	356.1	358.0
THYSEN	125.5	126.4
VARIA	268.0	272.0
VEBA	255.2	255.3
VEW	166.5	163.5
VOLKSWAGEN	238.7	239.0

## TOKYO

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE
AJINOMOTO	3420	3370
AKAI ELEC	616	627
AKAI	980	974
ASAHI GAS	1990	1990
ASAHI OPT	674	665
BANK TOKYO	1540	1540
BRIDGESTON	1380	1390
CANON	1110	1130
CASIO COMP	1250	1260
CHUGAI MNG	0	1670
CITIZEN K	590	593
O-ICHI KAN	3150	3170
DAI NIP IK	819	820
DAI NIP PT	2630	2610
DAI NIP SC	980	980
DAI NIP TO	510	519
DAICEL	888	878
DAIWA SEC	1740	1750
DATONA SEC	2710	2740
EBAY MFG	1000	1000
ELSAI	2210	2250
FUJITSU	1470	1480
FUJII PHOTO	3400	3420
FUJISAWA	2150	2150
FUJITA CP	729	735
HITACHI	1390	1390
HONDA MOT	1670	1670
ISSETAN	1530	1510
ITO YOKADO	4300	4270
JAP. SYN RU	980	980
JAPAN AIR	15000	15200
JAPAN NET	525	518
KAJIMA	1510	1540
KANSAI EL	2900	2920
KAO SOAP	1900	1910
KAWASAKI H	393	403
KAWASAKI S	393	397
KIRIN BEER	2380	2340
KOMATSU	655	655
KUBOTA LTD	730	725
KYOCERA	5400	5390
MAKITA EL	1870	1890
MARUI	3050	3080
MATSUITA EI	2620	2630
MATSUITA EL	0	2660
MEIJI SEIK	975	960
MITSUB CP	1300	1310
MITSUB EST	740	745
MITSUB HVB	2350	2370
MITSUBI CO	913	917
MITSUBUSHI	1640	1580
NICHICOM	1320	1380
NICHON	1400	1400
NIKON CNWT	798	799
NIKKO SEC	2080	2100
NIP ELEC	2070	2080
NIP KOKKAN	389	391
NIP OIL	1140	1160
NIP STEEL	478	481
NIP YUSEN	617	621
NIS MOTOR	977	975
NOMURA SEC	4300	4370
OHBA CO	970	980
OLYMPUS	1140	1170
RENTEA OCM	851	861
PIONEER	3250	3250
SEIKO INO	900	880
RICOH	1250	1280
SANKYO	2240	2250
SANYO ELEC	543	545
SEIYU ST	2350	2400
SEKISUI PB	1900	1900
SHARP	1010	1010
SHISEIDO	1720	1730
SONY	5220	5120
SUNITOMO	1170	1190
TAISEI	933	936
TAISHO MRN	1180	1180
TAKEDA CH	3000	3020
TEIJUN	825	835
TKO NEW IX	136.04	142.93
TOKIO MRN	2070	2060
TOYO ELEC	1170	1180
TOKYO GAS	1170	1190
TOKYO POWR	5980	6070
TORAY IND	811	810
TOSHIBA EL	777	777
TOTO	2390	2380
TOYO KKOGY	478	479
TOYOTA MOT	2560	2540
YAMAHA	1300	1280
YAMAICHI	2090	2110
YAMANOCHI	4380	4400
YAMAZAKI	1570	1580

## Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSED EASIER IN MODERATE TRADE. TOKYO, APRIL 5, REUTER - SHARE PRICES CLOSED LOWER BECAUSE INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS WERE NOT FULLY COMMITTED DUE TO A LACK OF FRESH FACTORS, AND BROKERS WERE COOLED DOWN ACTIVITY FOR FEAR THAT THE MARKET MAY BE TOO FAR TOO FAST.

"IF YOU LOOK AT IT TECHNICALLY, THE FUNDAMENTALS ARE STILL GOOD," SAID TORAMORU SUGAI, VICE PRESIDENT OF EQUITIES AT SHEARSON LEHMAN BROS ASIA. "INVESTORS ARE JUST THINKING OF SITTING BACK AND ASSESSING THE SITUATION."

THE NIKKEI INDEX SHED 19.94 POINTS, OR 0.08 PCT, TO 26,315.35. IT ROSE 53.17 POINTS ON MONDAY. FALLS LED RISES THREE TO TWO IN VOLUME OF 700 MLN SHARES AGAINST 1.1 BILLION. SECURITIES-HOUSE, RAILWAY/BS, COMMUNICATIONS, RUBBER, OIL, ELECTRICAL, BANK, GAS, PRECISION INSTRUMENT, AIRLINE AND SERVICE ISSUES LED THE DECLINES.

FOOD, FISHERY, CREDIT/LEASE AND RETAIL SHARES ADVANCED SLIGHTLY.

WALL STREET'S SEVEN-POINT FALL OVERNIGHT AND CONTINUED WARINESS OVER THE DIRECTION OF THE DOLLAR PROVIDED AN UNEASY BACKDROP TO TODAY'S MARKET, BROKERS SAID.

WHILE THESE ARE NOT THE PRIMARY REASONS FOR SLUGGISH TRADE, THEY HAVE HELPED CONTRIBUTE TO INSTITUTIONS' RESISTANCE TO BUY AT CURRENT LEVELS, BROKERS SAID.

ALTHOUGH INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN ENTHUSIASTICALLY BUYING, THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY COMPELLING REASON FOR INSTITUTIONS TO FOLLOW SUIT. THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT THEY ARE WAITING FOR PRICES TO EASE BEFORE COMING BACK IN, BROKERS SAID.

IN ORDER TO USHER IN THE NEW FISCAL YEAR ON A BRIGHT NOTE, BROKERS HAD BEEN GENERATING A GREAT DEAL OF TRADE, BUT WITH A SUBDUED RESPONSE FROM LARGE INVESTORS COMBINED WITH CONCERN OVER THE PACE AT WHICH THE MARKET HAS BEEN RISING, THE BROKERS HAVE TAKEN A BREATH FOR THE TIME BEING.

"FUNDAMENTALS HAVEN'T CHANGED," A BROKER SAID. "THE MARKET IS LOOKING AROUND FOR NEW LEADS."

## Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, MARCH 31, REUTER - SHARE PRICES CLOSED STEADY IN MODERATE TRADING ON LATE BUYING SUPPORT, BROKERS SAID.

THE HANG SENG INDEX ROSE 15.05 POINTS TO END THE DAY AT 2,543.97 AFTER FALLING 3.83 POINTS INITIALLY. THE HONG KONG INDEX GAINED 11.04 TO 1,669.99. TURNOVER WAS 668.12 MLN H.K. DLRS AGAINST 892 MLN DLRS ON WEDNESDAY.

BROKERS SAID BUYING INCENTIVE WAS LOW AFTER ALL MAJOR COMPANIES HAVE REPORTED THEIR 1987 RESULTS.

"THERE WAS SOME WINDOW DRESSING BY OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONS IN THE AFTERNOON," SAID A U.S. HOUSE BROKER. "THEY WANTED TO ENHANCE THE VALUE OF THEIR PORTFOLIOS."

## AMMAN

OPNG	CLSC
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	
ARAB BANK	
ARAB CHEMICAL DTR	4.25 4.10
ARAB FINANCIAL CORP.	1.40 1.36
ARAB INSURANCE	
ARAB INT. INV. TRAD.	
ARAB INT. UNION INS	0.97 0.92
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	0.53 0.58
ARAB JOR/INVST/BK	2.10 2.10
ARAB PAPER CON/TRD	0.37 0.36
ARAB PHARMA. MANF.	
ARAB POTASH CO.	
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65 1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	
BEIJING INSURANCE	1.00 0.95
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	30.00 30.00
DAR AL SHAB PRESS	
DAR ALADHA DV/INV.	1.45 1.45
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.10 3.95
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39 2.63
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.32 1.33
GENERAL MINING.	
HINNEH MINERALS	0.79 0.79
HOLY LAND INS.	1.15 1.20
IND./MATCH JEMCO	
INDSTR. DEVLPT BKK	1.36 1.36
INDSTR./COMM/AGR.	
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.75 0.75
INTERN. CO/INV	0.64 0.64
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.96 0.96
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64 0.64
ITERMED/PETRI/CH	
J. TOUR-SP COMPLEX	0.75 0.75
JOR TOBACCO/CIGARET	13.60 13.60
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	1.05 1.05
JOR EAGLE INV.	25.01 25.05
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.16 1.10
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.50 2.50
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20 1.20
JOR LEASING CORP.	
JOR LIM BRICK	
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50 0.50
JOR NATAL BANK	2.47 2.46
JOR PAPER CARBON	
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	2.20 2.20
JOR PRESS MANUFACT	
JOR PRINTING/PUBLIS.	2.00 2.05
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	3.96 4.00
JOR SECURIT. CORP	0.88 0.87
JOR SELPHO CHEM.	
JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	1.28 1.27
JOR WORSTED MLL	
JOR KUWAIT AGR	1.00 1.00
JOR PETROLIUM REF	
JOR. FRENCH INS.	5.20 5.30
JOR. INV. FIN. CORP	
JORDAN GULF REAL	0.32 0.32
JORDAN DAIRY	1.00 1.01
JORDAN GULF BANK	1.19 1.18
JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94 0.95
JORDAN INSURANCE	13.85 13.90
JORDAN ISLAMIC BKK	1.67 1.67
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	1.57 1.53
JORDAN TANNING	1.95 1.93
LIVESTOCK/INDUS.	
MACH/INDUS/MAIN	
MAS EQUIPMENT	0.69 0.73
MIDDEL EAST HOTEL	0.60 0.40
MIDDEL EAST INS	60.00 60.00
MINERALS RESEARCH	0.60 0.60
NAT. CABLE/WIRE/MF	
NATIONAL AHLIA INS	1.27 1.28
NATIONAL INDUSTRY	
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	
NATIONAL STEEL	
ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25 0.28
PETRA BANK	2.00 2.00
PETRA JOR. INS.	0.50 0.50
PHILADELPHIA INS.	
RAFA INDUSTRIAL	0.80 0.80
REAL ESTATE INV.	
SHIPPING LINES	
THE HOUSING BANK	1.67 1.67
UNITED INSURANCE	2.50 2.50
UNIVERSAL CHEM. IND	
UNIVERSAL INS.	1.19 1.23
WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	0.85 0.85
YARMOUK INSURANCE	

## PHILIPPINES MAKATI

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR				BC-A	71.00	74.00	
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	LC-A	.46	.47	.46
AC-A	8.80	8.90	8.80	LC-B	.47	.49	
ANS	4.35	4.40	4.30	PK-A	.36	.37	.37
FER-A	2.30	2.40		PK-B	.37	.39	.39
GLO	32.00	32.50	32.00	OTL SECTOR			
PLDT	143.00	144.00	142.00	BP-A	.015	.016	
KPSI-A		1.50	1.52	BP-B	.016	.017	
SMC-A	130.00	131.00	131.00	LRC-A	.0024	.003	
SMC-B	150.00	150.00	150.00	LRC-B	.0026	.003	
MINING SECTOR				OPW-A	.037	.038	.037
APK-A	.028	.03	.029	OPW-B	.037	.04	
APK-B	.029	.03	.03	OV-A	.032	.033	.032
AT-A	.210	.215	.215	OV-B	.032	.033	.032



## Oil prices drop

## Opec output within quota ahead of meeting

LONDON, April 5. (Reuters): The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, whose ministerial price committee meets on Saturday to discuss weak oil prices, kept within its self-imposed output ceiling in March, a Reuters survey showed today.

Opec, curbing output to support prices, set a ceiling last December of 15.06 million barrels per day (bpd) for the first six months for 12 of its 13 members, to defend a price at \$18 a barrel.

Iraq refused to sign because of its rivalry with Gulf war foe Iran. Iraq which has no quota has been producing about 2.5 million bpd since then.

## Analysts

The survey, based on data from oil traders, shipping sources, industry executives and analysts in the Middle East, Europe, Asia and Latin America showed Opec's 13 members pumped an average 17.4 million bpd last month, slightly above February's estimated 17.3 million.

But analysts said Opec output needed to be cut slightly if it was to match likely demand in the second quarter of 1988.

Since the end of last year Opec output has fallen around 1.5 million bpd and held at around 17 to 17.5 million in the first three months of this year.

Despite this, prices fell to 16-month lows by the start of last month, with Brent oil from the North Sea at \$14, due to high stocks and weak demand after a mild northern hemisphere winter, analysts said.

Markets have somewhat recovered since then, with Brent now around \$15.50, buoyed by the prospect of a meeting of the organisation's price committee to take place in Vienna.

"The meeting will review the agreement with a view to deciding what action if any requires to be taken to further strengthen the market," Opec President Riwanu Lukman said.

Several market analysts said they believe that second quarter demand is unlikely to exceed 17 million bpd and feel Opec needs to cut output by 500,000 to 800,000 bpd if it wants to take prices back to its reference price of \$18 in time for a scheduled full ministerial meeting in June.

## Call

In February, Algerian Minister Belkacem Nabi said group production should be cut to below 17 million bpd.

Meanwhile, senior Gulf oil sources ruled out today a call by an Opec pricing committee, slated to meet in Vienna this Saturday, to brake the current slide of oil prices on world markets.

"It is unlikely that Opec ministers would hold an extraordinary conference before the bi-annual ordinary meeting next June," the sources told Kuna.

They reasoned the unlikelihood of the call on fear that the emergency meeting would not meet with success, and subsequently lead to further chaotic prices of their oils, officially pegged at \$18 per barrel.

## Price

The committee, set up during the organisation's ordinary meeting last July in Vienna, has the powers to call an extraordinary ministerial conference if it saw necessary.

The sources indicated that the committee would confine itself to drafting a set of recommendations which would be submitted to member states during visits immediately after its meeting.

According to the sources, the committee would urge Opec countries to show greater adherence to the organisation's agreed price structure, not giving in to customers' demands for discounts even if this meant reducing their oil outputs.

The sources pointed out that "the committee would not seek binding decisions on Opec countries to reduce their current actual productions by a certain percentage, but rather call for abidance by official quotas

within the 15.06 million barrels a day aggregate ceiling, excluding Iraqi production, to end current Opec overproduction and bolster prices."

They indicated that the committee could send a minister or two on visits to major non-Opec oil producers to seek their cooperation with the organisation's efforts to jack up oil prices through lower production levels.

Oil prices have declined due to a market glut caused by lower demand ahead of the summer season against global overproduction by about two million

barrels a day than market needs.

Most Opec members, the sources went on, prefer to meet in Vienna on June 8 to review developments on world markets in light of the report to be submitted by the pricing committee which would include the views of organisation members and other producers on how to reverse the price decline.

Subsequently a key question, the sources added, would be the need for slashing Opec production ceiling and the subsequent laborious job of allocating quotas.

The following is an estimated country-by-country output breakdown in millions of barrels a day:

	Mar	Feb	Jan	Q1	Jan-Jun '88
Algeria	0.65	0.65	0.61	0.64	0.667
Ecuador	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.31	0.311
Gabon	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.159
Indonesia	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.2	1.19
Iran	2.0	2.0	2.08	2.0	2.369
Iraq	2.5	2.5	2.38	2.4	NQ
Kuwait	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.996
Libya	1.0	0.90	0.90	0.93	0.966
Nigeria	1.3	1.3	1.13	1.24	1.301
Qatar	0.3	0.3	0.30	0.30	0.299
S. Arabia	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.16	4.343
UAE	1.2	1.0	1.04	1.08	0.948
Venezuela	1.6	1.6	1.60	1.6	1.571
Total	17.4	17.3	16.9	17.2	15.06

Including shared neutral zone output  
NQ — No quota

## Top Texan official seeks rise in oil prices

NEW YORK, April 5. (Opecna): The head of the Texas railroad commission which set oil prices in and beyond the state prior to 1960 announced at the weekend he would be seeking a meeting with Opec officials this week to discuss the stabilisation of oil prices.

Commissioner Kent Lance said in Dallas that he wanted to encourage Opec to raise crude oil prices "to between \$18 and 24 a barrel," though he admitted he had little leverage to exert.

## Lower

Analysts recall that lower oil prices have adversely affected the economy of oil-producing states in the United States, forcing them to impose stringent measures and cut programmes to balance their budgets.

Daniel Yergin, president of the Cambridge Energy Research Associates, said any such meeting between the Texas commission and Opec officials would be "a significant, symbolic event" though it would have little impact on prices.

"Moral support is a part of what is going on here," he said.

## Major protectionist provisions removed

## US trade bill lacks farm-policy teeth

WASHINGTON, April 5. (Reuters): The agricultural section of the trade bill now being wrapped up in the US Congress, like most of the rest of the measure, has become a tiger decapitated.

Most protectionist provisions in the section have been eliminated and mandatory actions have been fitted with numerous escape valves that leave US agricultural trade policy little changed.

"People like the Europeans, the Japanese and others will sigh a big sigh of relief," said Al Tank, a lobbyist for the National Corn Growers' Association.

## Threat

Because major protectionist provisions have been removed, "I don't think we face a strong threat of retaliation from anyone," said American Farm Bureau lobbyist Paul Dracek.

The farm bureau had lobbied aggressively against some of the bill's provisions because the group said they were protectionist and could cause retaliation from other nations.

The bill's agricultural centerpiece is a marketing loan provision for grains and oilseeds that would be triggered in 1990 by a stalemate at trade-liberalisation talks at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in

## Geneva.

A marketing loan allows farmers to repay prices support loans at market rates, thus protecting farm income while releasing crops onto the market.

It was championed by Senate Agriculture Committee chairman Patrick Leahy, who returned from a recent trip to Geneva angered by what he saw as European Economic Community (EEC) unwillingness to reform their agricultural policy.

"We believe the marketing loan is a very effective weapon against Europe," said an aide to Leahy.

In its original form, the trigger would have been had to bypass if a stalemate existed. But house of representatives negotiators resisted, saying they did not want to commit themselves to a potentially expensive farm policy in advance of renewing US farm programmes in 1990.

## Endorsement

The compromise version retained the triggered loan, but added an alternative expansion of an existing US export subsidy programme, to be adopted if the marketing loan was deemed harmful to the trade talks.

They also gave the president final authority to implement

both provisions, authority the president effectively has now.

"This is really giving congressional endorsement to something that's already happening anyway," said an EEC diplomatic source.

The Agriculture Department has aggressively used its export subsidy authority, although it has only implemented marketing loans, for cotton and rice, when ordered to by Congress.

The diplomatic source said he doubted the triggered marketing loan provision would ever take effect, but he gave the expanded export subsidies a greater chance.

## Achievement

Even if the provisions remain unused, they could still strain the GATT talks, he said. "Nobody likes to negotiate with a threat hanging over you," he said.

The Reagan administration's major achievement in the trade bill was receiving authority to strike a deal at GATT, Tank said. The authority enables the United States to commit to a farm-trade outline agreement at a GATT midterm review in December. The US goal at GATT has been to eliminate farm subsidies worldwide. The Agriculture Department

remains opposed to the triggered provisions because they force the president to decide whether to implement them, an Agriculture Department official said. "If I were President I would rather not be forced to make that decision," the official said.

One of the bill's best features is that it is not as protectionist as it could have been, said Dean Kleckner, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

## Provision

Quotas on lamb imports, a provision requiring label identification of imported goods, and tobacco import and export restrictions all were dropped in the congressional negotiations over the bill.

Another major casualty was the so-called Gephardt amendment, which compelled retaliation against US farm products.

Some trade-restricting provisions remain, including restrictions aimed at grape imports and a provision allowing the Agriculture Department to impose meat import inspection requirements against countries whose inspection requirements are seen as trade barriers.

In addition, the bill increases budget authority for the existing export subsidy programme.

tenance Works in Mina Abdulla Refinery.

Further to the notice published in the Official Gazette (Al Kuwait Alyoun) Issue No. 1760 dated 22.8.88, the CTC hereby confirms the inclusion of the following companies in the list of companies qualified to take part in the above tender:

1. Al Al Muteeri Gen. Trdg. & Contg. Est.
2. Munawer & Sons Gen. Trdg. & Contg. Co.
3. Khalil Mahmoud Gen. Trdg. & Contg. Est.

Tender No. C-73750  
Requirements: Cleaning Services in Roads, Yards, Refusal Collections. Removal of Sewers & Other Services.

Further to the notice published in the Official Gazette (Al Kuwait Alyoun) Issue No. 1759 dated 21.3.1988, the CTC hereby confirms the inclusion of the following companies in the list of companies qualified to take part in the above tender:

1. Kuwait & Gulf Link Transport Co.
2. United Shipping, Trdg. & Contg. Services Co.
3. Al Mui Environmental Systems.

Tender No. P/S/1-88/88  
Requirements: Rent of Vehicles.  
Further to the notice published in the Official Gazette (Al Kuwait Alyoun) Issue No. 1764 dated 20.3.1988, the CTC hereby confirms the inclusion of the following companies in the list of companies qualified to take part in the above tender:

1. Kuwait & Gulf Link Transport Co.
2. United Shipping, Trdg. & Contg. Services Co.
3. Al Mui Environmental Systems.

Contractors already obtained the above tender documents are requested to collect the relevant explanatory memorandum.

Tender No. HMA/88-88/82  
Requirements: Design, Construction, Completion & Maintenance of Ground Water Leakage Treatment.

Further to the notice published in the Official Gazette Issue No. 1763 dated 13.3.1988, the CTC hereby confirms the inclusion of the following companies in the list of companies qualified to take part in the above tender:

1. Kuwait Construction Industries Co.
2. Safwan Int. Co.
3. Al Rasheed & Naser Co.

(To be continued)

Provided by M.A. Mursi Umm Al Maradin International Est. P.O. Box 3654, Safat, Tel. 5337547/5337610.

## Dollar steadies

## Sterling extends gains

LONDON, April 5. (Reuters): Sterling made new gains on foreign exchanges today, adding to pressures on the dollar, currency dealers reported.

Although the dollar has steadied after a slip last week, dealers saw it as being at risk of further falls. Jitters over what it might do contributed to weakness in the stock markets.

Wall Street stocks slipped seven points yesterday and Tokyo closed a shade lower today. London reopened down eight points after a four-day Easter break today and continental European bourses were mixed.

"The market will push on sterling until it gets a real slap in the face," said a US bank dealer in London, where the pound gained to almost 3.13 West German marks, up half a pfennig from the pre-Easter close, and touched \$1.8872.

"That really means only a cut in the interest rates will stop the rise," the dealer said.

## Policy

Others said an apparent policy defeat for Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who is willing to see sterling rise as a counter-inflationary measure, had for the moment ruled out interest rate cuts.

The dollar meanwhile traded quietly just below 1.66 marks and around 124.50 yen in Europe today. It had rallied a little in Asia, although Tokyo dealers said they still thought it would fall further. It is down from 1.69 marks and 127 yen a week ago.

"The dollar's recent fall is based on bullish sentiment for

the yen and sterling due to their strong economy, not on any particular news," said a dealer at first Chicago Bank in Tokyo, adding: "So the dollar's downward trend will persist."

In Europe, however, several dealers said they were somewhat less 'bearish' about the dollar today.

Tokyo share prices, which have been moving tantalisingly close to their record high in recent days, fell marginally.

"If you look at it technically, the fundamentals are still good," said Toranobu Sugai, vice president of equities at Shearson Lehman Bros Asia. "Investors are just thinking of sitting back and assessing the situation."

## Lower

The key Tokyo stock index shed 19.94 points, or 0.08 per cent, to end at 26,315.35. Brokers cited unease over Wall Street's decline and the dollar.

Sydney's main share index closed 2.6 points down at 1,412.8 due to profit-taking. But brokers said there was reasonable support for leading stocks.

London shares were marked lower across the board when trading resumed after the Easter holiday following the weaker closes on Wall Street and in Tokyo.

London's most-watched barometer, the FTSE index of 100 British blue chip stocks, opened at 1,734.4 which was 8.1 points below last Thursday's close.

Worries that the pound would continue to appreciate, and hit British exporters' profits, was again a cause for concern.

West German shares began little changed, dealers in Frankfurt reported. "The market is really quiet. There is no stimulus to move decisively in either direction," one said. French shares began slightly lower with the 50-share bourse index opening 0.3 per cent down.

## Steady

Crude oil prices were steady ahead of a meeting of the Opec pricing committee next Saturday. North Sea Brent blend for May loading was quoted at \$15.60/70 a barrel, just five cents lower than last Thursday.

Other late dollar rates in Europe, compared with Friday's rates:

- 1.6690 West German marks, up from 1.6565
- 1.3765 Swiss francs, up from 1.3635
- 5.6605 French francs, up from 5.6270
- 1.8700 Dutch guilders, up from 1.8595
- 1.2340 Italian lire, up from 1.228.75
- 1.2395 Canadian dollars, up from 1.2335

## Price

Gold fell in London to a late bid price of \$451.50 a troy ounce, compared with late Thursday's 454.50.

In Zurich, gold fell, closing at a bid of \$453.50 compared with 457.50 late Thursday.

In Hong Kong, gold markets were closed because of a public holiday.

Silver bullion prices fell on the London market where the metal was trading at a late bid price of \$6.65 a troy ounce, compared with Thursday's \$6.72.

## Mexico cheapest and Norway most expensive country for US employers

WASHINGTON, April 5. (AP): For a US employer who measures his labour cost in dollars, Mexico was the cheapest country last year and Norway the most expensive, according to a Labour Department report.

The report released yesterday took into account the decrease in the price of the dollar, and of changes in local pay rates. The cost of social insurance and other benefits are also figured, but not the relative efficiency of workers in different countries.

In dollar terms, costs in Mexico dropped to \$1.37 an hour from \$1.49 in 1986. Through wages more than doubled in Mexican pesos, the price of the peso dropped so fast on foreign exchange markets that the cost of labour in dollar declined.

## Benefits

Wages and other benefits for workers also rose in terms of Brazilian cruzados, but in dollar terms there was a decline to 1.49 from 1.60 an hour because of the low value of the cruzado.

Brazil and Mexico are the two biggest debtors among developing nations, a situation that tends to drive down the price of their currencies. They were the only two where the costs were reported to have dropped in the year.

Norway's average compensation of 118.52 kroner (\$17.58) an hour was nearly 13 times that of Mexico, measured in dollars. The US average of \$13.46 was almost 10 times Mexico's.

Low wage costs in other countries have long been used by American politicians as the reason for protecting US industry from imports. In recent years, low labour costs in other countries encourage US employers to set up production there rather than at home.

Congressional leaders have agreed on a trade bill that would curb some imports but the provision has not yet been approved by either house and there is a threat of a veto from President Ronald Reagan.

One provision would authorise the president to consider denial of internationally recognised labour rights, such as the right to organise labour unions, as an "unfair trade practice" for which he could reduce a country's exports to the United States.

Labour in the industrialised countries of Asia and Latin America remained less than a fifth as costly as in the United States. Costs in Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and

Taiwan rose by only 1 to 4 percentage points relative to those in the United States.

Of 22 countries, eight had costs higher than the 13.46 an hour in the United States. They were, in addition to Norway: Switzerland, 25.46 Swiss francs (\$17.06); West Germany, 30.26 marks (\$16.83); Sweden, 96.07 krona (\$15.14); Netherlands, 30.61 guilders (\$15.11); Belgium, 563.37 Belgian francs (\$15.08); and Denmark, 99.20 kroner (\$14.49).

All 23 countries for which the Labour Department had statistics showed an increase of some kind in the cost of labour in 1987, including the United States.

Japan's relative cost level in 1987 (of 84 per cent) greatly exceeded the previous peak of 72 per cent reached in 1986, yet the report from the Bureau of Labour Statistics.

It noted that Japan's level was now close to Canada's. The increase was due largely to the rise of the yen against the dollar.

This was also the reason for most of the rise in European costs, though they were also raised by cuts in working hours by Norway and Denmark, the report said.

## WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, April 5. (Reuters): The Australian sharemarket ended slightly lower following profit-taking in most sectors. The All Ordinaries closed 2.6 points lower at 1,412.3.

TOKYO: Share prices closed lower because institutional investors were not fully committed due to a lack of fresh funds. The Nikkei index shed 19.94 points, or 0.08 per cent, to close at 26,315.35.

SINGAPORE: Prices closed marginally higher over a broad front on light buying interest and sporadic bargain-hunting, after recent declines. The Straits Times industrial index rose 9.15 points to 926.83.

BOMBAY: Heavy institutional buying helped shares recover but business volume was thin and

most investors kept to the sidelines on end-account considerations.

FRANKFURT: Shares ended the bourse session mainly lower as a lack of new factors left investors sidelined in an extremely thin market.

ZURICH: Share prices closed slightly higher in very quiet trading after the Easter break as investors awaited fresh impulses from New York. The all-share Swiss index was 4.1 higher at 816.3 points.

LONDON: Share prices were substantially above the day's lowest levels after a firm opening on Wall Street buoyed sentiment. At 1530 GMT, the FTSE index was 8.4 points off at 1,734.1.

## SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 5.4.88

B.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
8	Shaan	ISA	2441860
15	Novocher Kask	Alrasheed	2422026

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT

ETA	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
5/4	Dhaura Giri	Trans Cont	2436920
6/4	Zarka	Gh & Q	4747815

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT

B.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Sila	RSMS	2423642
3	Tug Salvanita	S. Shaheen	2432692
9	Barge Delmar-2	S. Shaheen	2432692
18	Abu Basma	RSMS	2423642
18	Rhein Express	Ma. Bahar	2433881
18	Najdiah	KOTC	

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT

EYA	Ship Name	Agent	Tel No.
4/4	Grace Liberty	Al Kamal	2425437
4/4	Al Manahk	UASC	4843150
5/4	Ionian Empress	Gh. Barber	4842988
9/4	Trade Freedom	Ma. Bahar	2433881
10/4	Torbay	KMMC	2419814
15/4	Addiriyah	UASC	4843150
11/4	Dubai		

COMPILED BY Alghanim Barber Shipping Co. WLL, PO Box 21708 Safat, Alghanim Industries Bldg, Airport Road, Shuwaikh. Phone 4842988/4843988, extn. 3614/3628.

John S. ...





**SOLDIERS** stand guard outside a store in Panama City which reopened its doors on Monday. Nearly 50 per cent of the businesses reopened, but all of Panama's banks remained closed. (Reuter wirephoto)



**EGYPTIAN** President Hosni Mubarak (right) reviews a map of the Japanese-built opera house in Cairo, which is due to have its gala opening in October. Egyptian Culture Minister Farouk Hosni (left) and the director of the opera house Magda Saleh escorted Mubarak on a tour of the complex. (Reuter wirephoto)



**RESCUERS** arrive at the scene where four British schoolboys fell to their deaths in the Austrian Alps on Monday near Salzburg. The boys, aged 14 and 15, had fallen while scrambling on the Untersberg. (Reuter wirephoto)



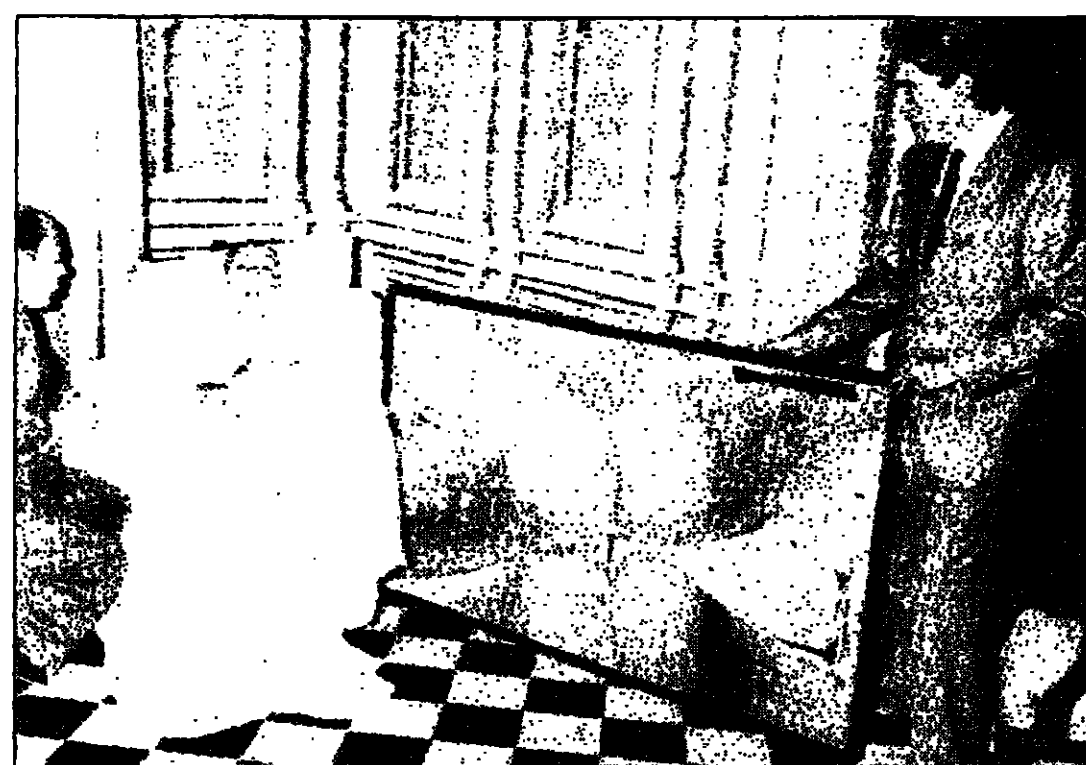
**A TRUCKLOAD** of lumber, two by fours, lies next to Interstate 10 in New Orleans yesterday after a tractor-trailer lost control, killing two men. The lumber knocked down a 100-foot-long sign (left). (Reuter wirephoto)



**AN** American soldier stands helplessly in front of a heap of scrap; the remains of a US helicopter which crashed in dense fog on a steep slope in Bissingen, West Germany. The pilot and a passenger died. (Reuter wirephoto)



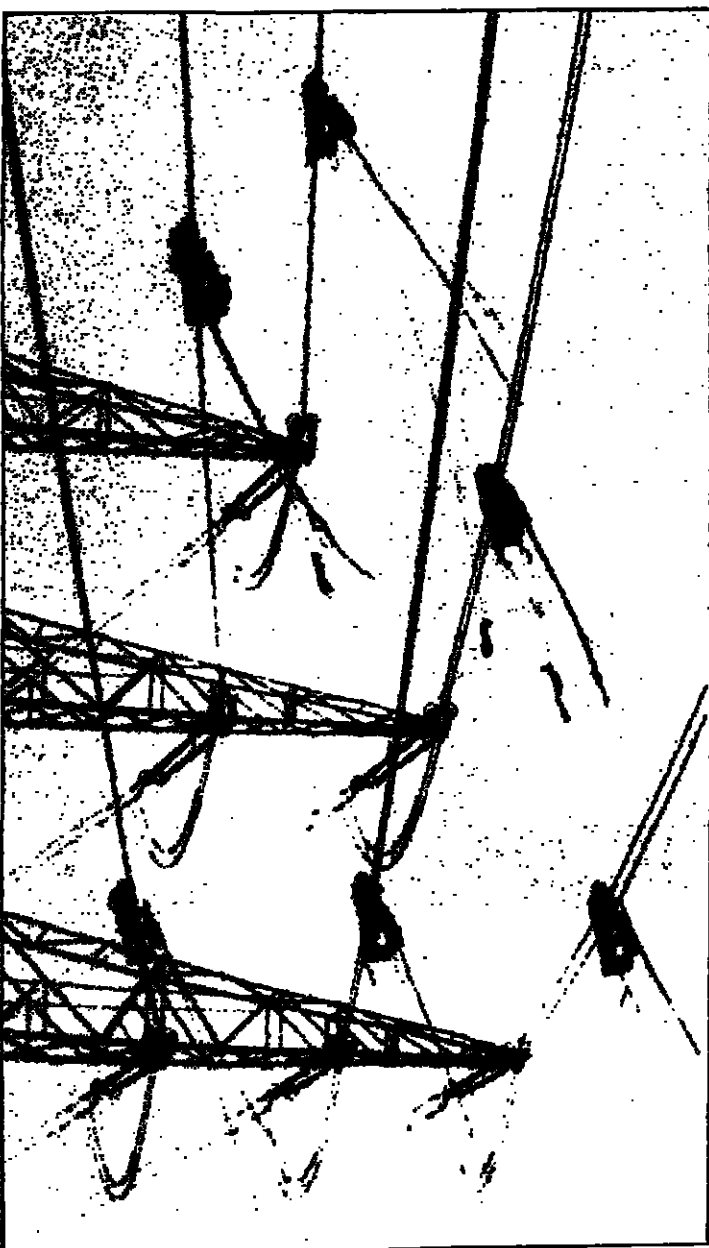
**RICHARD BROCK**, 16, gives a smile as he rides his bicycle in Brisbane, Australia, yesterday despite serious flooding in and around the Queensland capital after heavy rain closed highways and isolated towns. (Reuter wirephoto)



**CATALAN** regional President Jordi Pujol (left) visits Salvador Dali (centre) at his home in Spain, where he has remained in seclusion for several years. Dali presented the government with one of his favourite paintings, 'Birth of a Goddess.' (Reuter wirephoto)



**ARTIST** Angelo Camerino da Greccio shows one of his chastity belts which have found a new market among jealous husbands in southern Italy. Selling at two million lire each (\$1,600) he has made seven to order with men bringing their wives to his studio for fittings. (Reuter wirephoto)



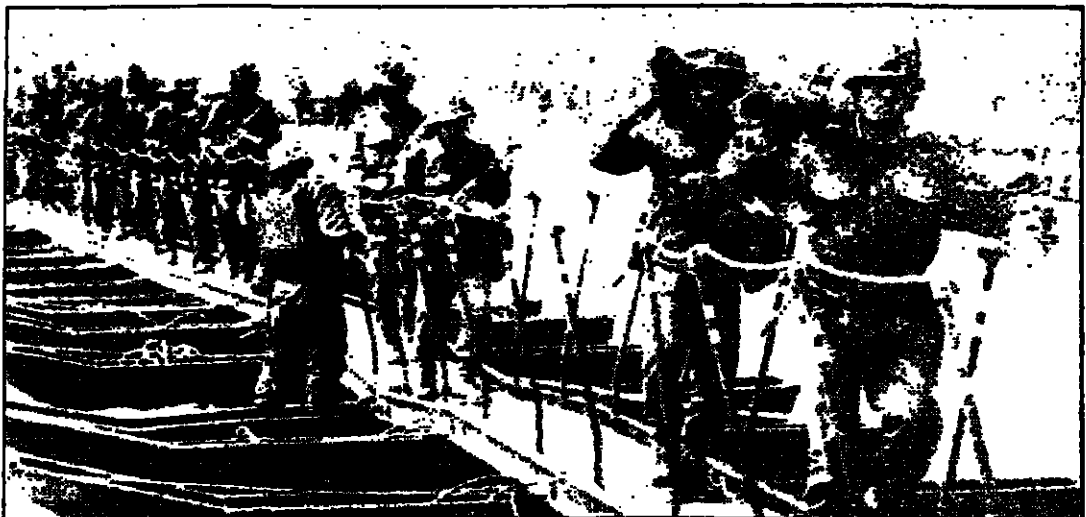
**WORKERS** in cabins are silhouetted against a cloudy sky as they carry out routine maintenance work on the power cables high above the ground in Echling, West Germany. (Reuter wirephoto)



**SAID KAZAR** from Saudi Arabia shows good form as he receives his first bull of the afternoon during his debut in Spain yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



**A PHOTOGRAPH** released by the mujahedeen commander Mahmoud Atail, Chief of Staff of the National Liberation Army of Iran, in his first news conference using a detailed model to brief reporters. The NLA claims to have inflicted heavy blows on the Iranian Army, loyal to Ayatollah Khomeini, in a huge offensive last month. They also claim to have killed about 4,000 troops. (Reuter wirephoto)



**SOUTH KOREAN** troops cross a pontoon bridge during the annual joint US and South Korean military field exercises yesterday in the northeast part of Seoul. The manoeuvre is part of the 10-week joint military exercise called 'Team Spirit 1988' involving more than 200,000 troops from both countries. (Reuter wirephoto)



# ARAB TIMES Classifieds

## ACCOMMODATION

### Available

ROOM available for Indian couples or ladies at Kaifan, opp. Jamaiya No. 1, Area No. 3, Street No. 31, House No. 6. Contact Sultan Mohammed in person (from 8 am to 10 pm). (AT3-41699-3)

IN Salmiya, Hamad Al Mubarak St., near Farah centre. One big room available with water and electricity for a couple or 3 working ladies. Bus 505, 30, 109, 14, 19, 15. Rent KD75. Tele. Sonia, 2468307, 9 am - 5 pm only. (AT5-41734-3)

KUWAIT City, behind G.P.O., Qibla, one room with water and electricity for Indian bachelors to share with an Indian family. Tele. Fernandes, 2401610, 4-7 pm only. (AT5-41728-3)

SALMIYA, Baghdad Street, opp. Sheri Lynn, close to the main centre. One room and kitchen facilities, water, electricity and telephone for a couple or a small family. Bus routes 14, 15, 30, 109. Tele. Mattos, 5639689. (AT5-41724-3)

RUMATHIYA, behind Video Alfooz, (Sulaiman Al Adani Street). One room with water, electricity and telephone facilities for Indian bachelors to share with a Muslim family. Bus routes 24, 27, 509. Rent KD60. Tele. Ismail, 5652741. (AT5-41718-3)

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Rehab Complex, Hawaili,  
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SALMIYA, near Al Foz Video, one independent furnished room with A/C for one bachelor or working girl, Indian or Pakistani. Tele. 5634802 Res. (AT3-41704-3)

IN Maidan Hawaili, Baghdad street. One room with water and electricity for Filipino ladies or couple to share with a family. Bus 109, 30, 14. Tele. 2422889, 8 am - 12.30 pm, 4 - 7.30 pm. (AT5-41733-3)

## For Rent

SALWA, Area 6, St 31, Villa No. 111. Mediterranean style single storey villa, 2-bedrooms, large living and family room overlooking an enormous garden, CAC and tele. line, carpets and curtains. Rent KD350. Tele. 5744017/8. (AT5-41719-3)

SALWA, deluxe, CAC, brand new flat consisting of 4 bedrooms, large living room, dining room, 2 bathrooms, large fitted kitchen and balcony. Rent KD350 including water and electricity. Tele. 5382783. (AT5-41727-3)

MISHREF, Area 5, 3-bedroom flat in private villa part furnished for sale including carpet & curtains, telephone connected, rent KD400. Tele: Honeywill, 5388975 after 6 pm. (AT4-41700-3)

Qatar Real Estate  
Tel: 2406592, 2406593

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\* Part Villas  
\* Flats \* Offices  
Excellent condition with 2-3-4 Bedrooms with Dining room, Saloon, Telephone, Garden, Car parking space, Servant's quarters with Central Airconditioning. Contact

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Contact Tel: 4748877/  
4731004. Timings — 8.00 am - 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm - 8.00 pm. Al Mowassim Trdg.

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2. Deluxe CAC villa in Surra. Consists of two floors and an annexe. Opposite the American School.  
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from 9.00 am - 12.00 noon and 5.00 - 8.00 pm.

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  - Part-timers are also welcome
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Rescheduled Cargo Flight

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Kuwait/Bangkok Wednesday 12.25

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Kuwait/Frankfurt Departs	Frankfurt/Kuwait Arrives
Monday 9.25	Tuesday 19.35
Wednesday 9.40	Thursday 19.35
Friday 9.25	Sunday 20.15

For Further Information Contact:  
Tel: 4741471/4743314/4743464

## FOR SALE

### Boats

16-FOOT Canadian Taser sailing dinghy, with sails, all equipment, road trailer, in reasonable condition. KD280/-. Tel: Honeywill, 5388975 after 6 pm. (AT4-41700-3)

### Cars

TOYOTA (Land Cruiser) jeep, 1984, white, old fashioned body, in excellent condition, 82,000 km, insured till Feb '89, fully serviced. Tel. 5387755, 2448840. (AT3-41687-3)

AUDI 100CD Avant, 1984, only 27,000 km, excellent condition, ideal family car, British lady owner leaving Kuwait. KD3000. Tel: 5652385 after 2 pm. (AT3-41687-3)

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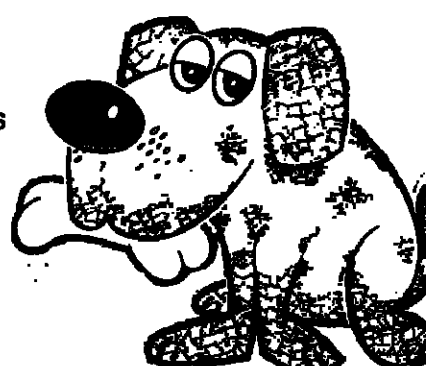
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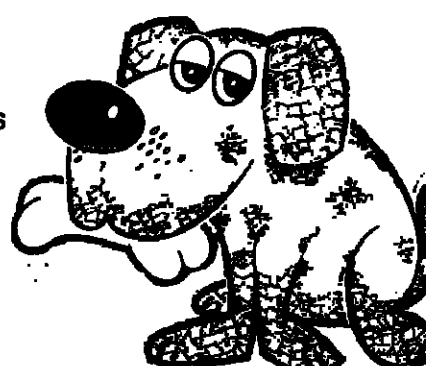
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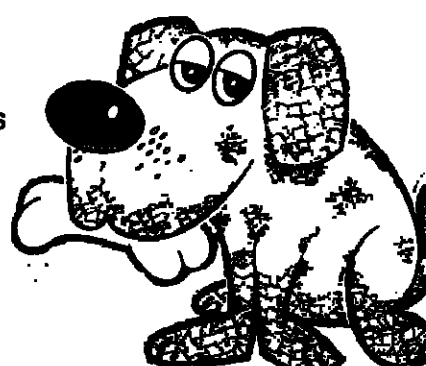
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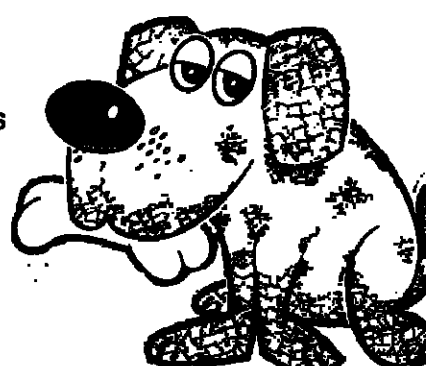
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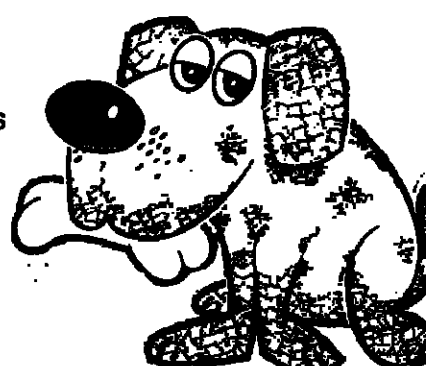
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## Lyle seeks victory at Masters

AUGUSTA, Georgia, April 5. (AP) Sandy Lyle took a day off relaxing and shopping before getting down to work for the 52nd Masters.

But a cursory prowl through Augusta's shopping malls failed to produce one item he was seeking.

"I don't have a green jacket in my wardrobe," the Scot said. "Maybe I can pick one up this weekend."

Lyle's chance of acquiring the famed green jacket that goes to the winner of the Masters, the first of the year's four big golf tournaments, was enhanced by his playoff triumph at Greensboro on Sunday.

But it also took its toll. "It took a lot out of me," Lyle said. "Having a three-shot lead, then losing it, then fighting back, it was steamy out there."

"But the day off (yesterday) and some gentle practice the next few days should see me right," he said, in anticipation of the start of the tournament on Thursday at the Augusta National Golf Club course.

"I'm playing well now. My confidence is very high. Everything seems to be in order," he said. "And with the small field, about 50 pros who can win as opposed to the 100 in other tournaments, that improves the odds."

Lyle's second victory of the season opened other possibilities for him, possibilities such as becoming the first British player to take the American money winning title. Lyle leads with \$408,021.

"I don't expect to change things much. I'll stick to my plan, 15 or 16 tournaments in the States," said Lyle, who already has played in nine American Tour events this season.

"I have commitments in Europe that I must meet. And that is my home circuit. I must play nine tournaments there. And with 15 or 16 in the States, that's a full schedule," said Lyle, who will return to Europe after next week's heritage classic.

At the moment, however, his focus is on the elite, Invitational Masters field of 91.

With the shift in golf's balance of power in recent years, much of his most formidable opposition is contained in the 15 entrants from outside the United States.

Chief among them are Seve Ballesteros of Spain and Greg Norman of Australia, both play off losers to Larry Mize in last year's Masters, along with Ian Woosnam of Wales, winner of more than \$1.8 million in worldwide earnings last season, and 1985 Masters champion Bernhard Langer of West Germany.

The American field led by Paul Azinger, Mark McCumber, Ben Crenshaw, Tom Kite, Tom Watson, Lanny Wadkins, PGA champion Larry Nelson, Jay Haas, Curtis Strange, Payne Stewart and the only six-time Masters winner, 48-year-old Jack Nicklaus.

**Huber triumphs in downhill race**

TOKYO, April 5. (AP) Rudolf Huber beat Austrian compatriot Wellebald Zechner to capture the Federation of International Skiing All Japan downhill race today in Nagano, central Japan.

Huber, 25, won in 1 minute and 30.52 seconds, while Zechner finished in 1 minute and 31.19 seconds.

Eighty-seven skiers competed over the 2,478-metre Shigakogen course with a vertical drop of 650 metres.

Katsuhito Kumagai was third in 1 minute and 31.31 seconds, while Shinya Chiba was fourth in 1 minute and 31.78 seconds.

## AMERICAN BASEBALL SEASON GETS UNDERWAY

# Bell slams three home runs in opener

NEW YORK, April 5. (AP) Some things never change — Toronto's George Bell still is hitting home runs and Boston's bullpen still is giving them up.

Bell, Toronto's MVP and unhappy designated hitter, became the first player in baseball history to hit three home runs on opening day when he powered the Blue Jays to a 5-3 victory over the Kansas City Royals last night.

How about a big smile, George.

"I've got too many things on my mind to be happy," said Bell, who encored last year's 47-homer season with a solo shot in the second inning, a two-run homer that put Toronto ahead 3-2 in the fourth and a bases-empty homer in the eighth, all off Bret Saberhagen.

Things were supposed to be different in Boston, where the Red Sox tired of watching Wes Gardner and Calvin Schiraldi give up 32 home runs in 173 innings a year ago. They acquired fireballing Lee Smith, one of baseball's top relievers, from the Chicago Cubs.

**Tigers 5, Red Sox 3**  
Alan Trammell's two-run homer — both runs were unearned because of an error by Boston shortstop Spike Owen —

decided a game that began as a pitching duel between Roger Clemens, Boston's two-time CY Young Award winner, and Detroit's Jack Morris. A crowd of 34,781 attended at Fenway Park.

Both pitchers went nine innings, with Clemens striking out 11 and Morris fanning nine. Clemens gave up six hits, including Matt Nokes' game-tying homer in the sixth inning, and also was called for three balks.

**Athletics 4, Mariners 1**  
Dave Stewart allowed two hits in 8 1-3 innings — a single on the first pitch of the game and a one-out single in the ninth — and Dave Henderson and Jose Canseco homered.

**Brewers 12, Orioles 0**  
Teddy Higuera pitched three-hit ball for seven innings and Dale Sveum's two-run homer highlighted a 16-hit barrage as Milwaukee handed the Orioles their worst opening-day loss.

**White Sox 8, Angels 5**  
Kenny Williams homered, doubled and drove in three runs before a crowd of 35,899 in Chicago. Williams, whose homer capped a three-run fifth inning, doubled to key a five-run seventh that erased a 4-3 California lead



Cardinals' catcher Tony Pena (right) waits for Reds' Bo Diaz at the plate to make the out. (Reuter wirephoto)

and spoiled the managerial debut of Cookie Rojas.

**Rangers 4, Indians 3**  
Pete O'Brien hit second home run of the game to break a tie in the bottom of the eighth inning. O'Brien, who hit a second-inning homer off Tom Candiotti, got his game-winner off Chris Codiroli

before 37,613 in Arlington. Meanwhile, a season after the year of the home run, Darryl Strawberry and the New York Mets are making this the year of the home run 11.

Strawberry and Kevin McReynolds hit two home runs each as the Mets set a club record

with six homers — the most ever by any team on opening day — and beat the Montreal Expos 10-6.

If this is the time pitchers are supposed to be ahead of hitters, no one told the batters in Montreal. They got 28 hits off eight pitchers, obviously not helped by

the higher strike zone.

"Both teams got their hits today," Expos manager Buck Rodgers said. "The difference was they added the long ball to theirs."

National League pitchers also struggled with balks on opening day. Cincinnati's Mario Soto and St. Louis' Joe Magrane each were called for two balks and Dwight Gooden of the Mets and Dennis Martinez were cited once apiece as umpires began enforcing tighter balk rules.

**Giants 5, Dodgers 1**

Dave Dravecky pitched a three-hitter and newcomer Brett Butler had three hits as San Francisco improved to 3-0 in opening days under manager Roger Craig. The NL West champions took advantage of Los Angeles' sloppy fielding and beat Fernando Valenzuela before 48,484 at Dodger stadium.

**Reds 5, Cardinals 4**

Kal Daniels singled home Jeff Treadway with two outs in the bottom of the 12th as Cincinnati won its fifth straight opener at home in Riverfront stadium. Daniels, who grounded out in his first two at-bats, also hit a solo homer in the sixth inning before his winning single.

## Soviets trying to recruit young talent

MOSCOW, April 5. (Reuter): Anyone for tennis?

The appeal, addressed increasingly often to millions of young Russians by television presenters and newspaper advertisements, comes now with official backing.

The Soviet Union, which for years frowned on tennis as too individualistic and aristocratic, is trying to recruit young talent capable of winning gold in the new Olympic sport.

Boosted by greater promotion, tennis is enjoying a boom in the Soviet Union. More players than ever are striving for places on the few available courts and the country's top players are enjoying every-increasing success across the world.

Andrei Chesnokov, the Soviet number one and world 17, already has a number of top scalps to his name, including

Swede Mats Wilander.

Larisa Savchenko, 16th on the moneywinners' list, is a fine player on her own account and has also struck up an increasingly effective doubles partnership with Svetlana Parkhomenko.

"Tennis is a very popular sport," Soviet women's tennis coach and 1974 beaten Wimbledon finalist Olga Morozova told reporters. "I see a lot of people playing tennis. It's a lot more popular now than when I was playing."

To boost the game at the top level, a self-imposed 10-year Soviet exile from international tournaments was ended in 1985.

Soviet players were sent to the United States for coaching and an American sports management firm was hired to represent players in tournaments and win them merchandising agreements.

The players are technically

amateur and give their winnings to the Soviet tennis authorities, making them eligible to compete in Seoul for the first Olympic tennis gold medals.

The cold Soviet climate has always restricted playing opportunities at home.

But as in Sweden, the Soviet Union has refused to be deterred by its harsh climate.

### Interest

They have built about 100 indoor courts in addition to 3,500 outdoor courts, according to the monthly magazine Culture and Life, although this figure remains small compared to the United States.

The Communist Party youth daily Komsomolskaya Pravda published an advertisement recently calling for players, especially youngsters, to join a tennis and athletics club in Moscow. The newspaper received 267

replies in six days.

No top professional events are staged in the Soviet Union but television coverage of Wimbledon and victories by Soviet players have increased public interest, just as the success of Bjorn Borg boosted the Swedish game.

But despite the impressive boom in the last few years, tennis has some way to go before it fully takes off. The problems of poor equipment and too few courts remain.

"Our rackets would be fine for top players ... in the 1930s," Chesnokov told Komsomolskaya Pravda.

"We have fewer indoor courts in the whole country than, say, in New York alone. There are also too few outdoor courts."

"All this creates extra difficulties for developing the mass game and getting our tennis up to international level," he said.

## Roche returns to racing

MONTLHERY, France, April 5. (UPI): World cycling champion Stephen Roche returned to racing yesterday for the first time since a knee surgery in November and said he felt fine after completing nearly three-quarters of a 138-kilometre race on an auto speedway.

Roche stayed near the front of the 170 cyclists for about a dozen of the 22 laps, then slowed back into the pack and dropped out of the race after completing about 100 km.

"I feel very good. I have minor leg cramps but that's a bad habit of mine," said the Irish cyclist, who told officials of his Fagor team that his knee felt fine after the race.

Roche had not participated in a race since November, when he underwent surgery on his left knee in a clinic near Paris. Though he dismissed the operation as minor, it forced him to undergo extensive physical

therapy and kept him from racing until yesterday.

He made a surprise appearance at the Paris-Nice race in early March, but dropped out after the prologue because the knee "was still tender."

Roche told Fagor officials yesterday before the "loops of Paris" race, run on a gently sloping auto speedway with only one challenging hill, that he would not attempt to finish the contest.

Roche, who swept the Tour de France, the Tour of Italy and the World Championship Road Race last year, said he would continue a slow recuperation and would not worry about winning any races until May — but would try to go farther each time he races.

"My knee wasn't hurting and I've been back in training for a week now," he said. "It will take me about a dozen races to get back my rhythm."

## Iraq is one of the best in Asia, says team coach

KUALA LUMPUR, April 5. (Kuna): Iraq will win the Group B Asian Cup soccer qualifying tournament, which starts in the Malaysian capital on Thursday, said Iraqi coach Emmanuel Baba when the 20-man team arrived here yesterday.

"Iraq is one of the best teams in Asia and I see no reason for us not winning the group," the 54-year-old Emmanuel told reporters.

The Iraqis are so sure of winning that they have only brought six of their regulars for the 12-day championship. They are Basir George, Ahmad Radhi, Ahmad Jasim, Samir Shaker, Hassan Kamal and Habib Akal.

**Finished**  
Ahmad Radhi is the team's top striker. He scored two goals — against Mexico and Belgium — in the 1986 Mexico World Cup finals.

He also finished as the top scorer in the recent Gulf tournament.

Habib, an influential midfielder, is the livewire of the team and was voted the Best Player in the Gulf tournament.

Emmanuel said he had to leave some players in Baghdad as they need a rest after the recent Gulf

tournament. "The seniors are tired and some of them are also injured. As we have other tournaments to play in the next few months, it's best to leave them out at the moment."

"We replaced them with 12 new players, including 10 juniors. But I'm confident that the new players will do well in the tournament," he said.

"The tournament will be good exposure for them as we are thinking of blending a team for the all-Arab tournament in May and the Seoul Olympics in September," said Emmanuel.

Iraq qualified for the Olympics for the third time when it defeated Kuwait 1-0 early this year. It played in Moscow in 1980 and Los Angeles in 1984.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian football team, which arrived in the Malaysian capital yesterday, does not know what is in store for it in the Group B Asian Cup qualifying tournament.

"I have never seen Pakistan and Japan in action. As for Malaysia, I've only seen them playing on video. Therefore, I don't know how we will fare in the tournament," said coach Ahmad M. Abu-Sheakha.

## Danneberg threatens boycott

BONN, April 5. (Reuter): Olympic discus champion Rolf Danneberg said today he would boycott the first East-West Germany athletics international in June if Wolfgang Schmidt, expelled from East Germany last year, was not selected.

Schmidt, a former discus world record holder, now competes as a West German but the national athletics federation decided last week he would not be in the team for the inter-German international in Duesseldorf on June 19 and 20.

**Pushed**  
Danneberg said: "We have to talk to the federation about this. We can't allow ourselves to be pushed around for purposes of sports politics. If the decision stays then I will decline to compete against East Germany."

The 1984 Olympic champion said he was speaking for himself and not for other West German athletes.

Schmidt, who held the world record from 1978 to 1983, was expelled from East Germany last November. In 1982 and 1983 he spent over a year in prison on charges of illegal Western contacts and of attempting to defect.

rebound and sank two free throws to give Kansas a four-point edge with 14 seconds left.

Oklahoma's Ricky Grace then raced the length of the court and hit a spinning lay-up to close the gap to 81-79 with seven seconds remaining.

Manning was intentionally fouled after receiving the inbound pass. With five seconds on the clock, he put the game out of reach and ended Oklahoma's dream of its first national championship when he sank both foul shots for 83-79.

Kansas, which was not even expected to reach the final four, surprised Oklahoma when they came out running against the high-scoring Sooners.

**Contest**  
The game was close throughout. The first half ended deadlocked 50-50 and with under five minutes left in the second half, the contest was still even 71-71.

Dave Sieger led Oklahoma with 22 points, including a tournament record seven three-point baskets. Kansas, with 11 losses this year, set a record of its own by becoming the championship team with the most defeats in a season.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., April 5. (Reuter): Collegiate superstar Danny Manning, who carried Kansas into the NCAA tournament final, last night led the Jayhawks to the National Basketball Championship with a 83-79 upset victory over Oklahoma.

Manning led all scorers with 31 points and pulled down 18 rebounds in a tremendous effort in the see-saw battle against a team that had beaten Kansas twice this season.

**Regular**  
This was only the third time in National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament history that regular season conference rivals have met in championship game.

The 50-year-old tournament, known for wild finishes and dramatic last second heroics, did not disappoint yesterday.

Kansas guard Scooter Barry was fouled with 16 seconds left in the game and his team leading 78-77. The son of Rick Barry, one of the greatest former professional players of all time, hit his first free throw for 79-77, but missed the second.

Manning, who was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, was fouled going for the

rebound and sank two free

throws to give Kansas a four-

point edge with 14 seconds left.

Oklahoma's Ricky Grace then

raced the length of the court and

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## Former England player for Nomads' ball

FORMER England Rugby international, Barrie Corless, will be the guest speaker at the Kuwait Nomads Annual "Oval Ball" next week.

Corless, who won 10 caps for England in the centre between 1976 and 1978, will be flown out to Kuwait courtesy of British Airways, who are sponsoring his flight to celebrate forty years of rugby in Kuwait.

As well as the anniversary celebrations, the Nomads have good cause to be pleased with their season's achievements. They won outright the Middle East XV's, The RFU Challenge Cup, The Gulf RFU 2nd XV's Trophy, and they are guaranteed at least a share of the Gulf RFU Merit Table Title.

### Interest

All this with the continuing problem of obtaining visas for visiting teams, whose only interest, like the Nomads, is the pursuance of their chosen sport.

The "Oval Ball" will also be the occasion on which the Nomads honour the achievements of their own members. Awards for 1st XV Player of the Year, 2nd XV Player of the Year, Clubman of the Year, Most Improved Player of the Year, and Young Player of the Year will be announced at the function. Tickets are available from Jon Evans (5339867) or Brian Heade (2637727).

**Spanish rider wins first leg**

BEASAIN, Spain, April 5. (AP): Spanish rider Manuel Jorge Dominguez became the first overall leader of the 28th tour of the Basque Country Cycling Race after he won the first leg yesterday.

He won the 188-kilometre leg, with start and finish in Beasain, in four hours and 37 minutes on a final sprint. Second was Erik Pedersen of Norway, followed by Sean Kelly of Ireland.

Then came, also with the same time as the winner: Rolf Golz, West Germany, in fourth place; Peter Steenhaagen, the Netherlands, in fifth; Rudy Dhaenens, the Netherlands, sixth; followed by Joaquin Hernandez, Spain; Jose Luis Lagua, Spain; Pello Ruiz Cabestany, Spain; and Jorgen Pedersen, Denmark, in 10th place.

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Manning dunks the ball for two points. (Reuter wirephoto)



## SPANISH CHAMPIONS SEEK TO SATISFY DEEPEST CRAVING

## Real aim for 10th appearance in final

MADRID, April 5, (Reuters). Real Madrid will be seeking to satisfy the deepest craving in European soccer when they meet Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven in their Champions' Cup semifinal first leg tomorrow.

On a night of six semifinals in the continent's three major club competitions, the meeting of the favourites, who have not won the trophy for 22 years, and the most free-scoring team in Europe, will be the outstanding match.

The Spanish champions, six-times winners of the premier trophy in European club soccer, have not enjoyed the taste of triumph since beating Partizan Belgrade in Brussels in 1966 and are fuelled by a burning desire to end their frustration.

**Deeds**  
That victory, the final act in an era of greatness always associated with the deeds of Di Stefano, Puskas and Gento, has been followed by only one other appearance in the final.

This was in 1981 when Madrid were beaten 1-0 in Paris by Liverpool in a final condemned for its "chloroform soccer" — a memory the club's army of supporters believe the present team will erase in style this season.

Having disposed of Italian champions Napoli, holders Porto of Portugal and West German champions Bayern Munich en route to the semifinals, they are expected to possess too much



Real's Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez practices his scissor kick. (Reuters wirephoto)

power, experience and tactical acumen for the Dutchmen.

But PSV, scorers of 105 goals in only 29 First Division matches in the Netherlands and virtually

certain of their third successive title, are likely to do more than merely stand between Real and their 10th appearance in a European Cup final.

Despite the controversy surrounding published remarks made by their brilliant libero Ronald Koeman, PSV should be technically and temperamentally equipped to survive the intimidating atmosphere of the Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

"We will have to approach Real ice-cold," said PSV coach Guus Hiddink. "Fortunately, we have players who will not be scared away by roughness."

In the other semifinal, Portuguese champions Benfica, winners of the Cup in 1961 and 1962, travel to Romania to play 1986 winners Steaua Bucharest.

Benfica hope to emulate their great rivals Porto by keeping the Cup in Portugal, but coach Antonio "Toni" Oliveira admitted the Romanians will be formidable opponents.

"Steaua are a better team than Anderlecht and we will have to be at our best in Bucharest. There are no easy teams in the semifinals of this competition," he said.

In the Cup Winners' Cup, holders Ajax Amsterdam, still struggling for form following the abrupt departure of coach Johan Cruyff in January, face Olympique Marseille of France and Belgium's Mechelen meet Italian Second Division Atalanta.

Ajax, an attacking delight last season, have relied increasingly on defence this season and goalkeeper Stanley Menzo has not conceded a goal in their last eight

## Cup Winners' Cup outings.

He and Danny Blind are the only survivors of the Ajax defence which helped win the trophy and Ajax will rely on Swedish defender Peter Larsson, a star of the recent Berlin tournament, to keep Marseille's Jean-Pierre Papin and Klaus Allofs at bay.

Mechelen have doubts over Israeli Eli Ohana and Dutchman Erwin Koeman following a 1-0 home defeat by FC Liege on Sunday and could also be without flu-victim Albert Cluytens.

In the UEFA Cup, Bayer Leverkusen expect a capacity 20,000 crowd at their Ulrich Haberland stadium for the visit of League leaders Werder Bremen in an all-West German semifinal.

## Prevented

Both teams are at full strength and Werder, chasing a League, Cup and UEFA Cup treble, go into the match with two new internationals.

Stopper Uli Borowka and striker Frank Neubarth made their debuts for West Germany against Argentina on Saturday in the West Berlin tournament which has prevented either team from playing for 10 days.

In the other semifinal, Club Brugge of Belgium meet Spain's Espanol. Brugge will be without sweeper Hugo Broos who is suspended.



Miandad (left) and Salim Yousuf: batted well

## West Indies set Test record for extras

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, April 5, (Reuters). West Indies set a record for extras in a Test innings as Pakistan took a strong grip on the third day of the First cricket Test yesterday.

Javed Miandad made 114 to provide the foundation of Pakistan's first innings of 435, a lead of 143.

But extras were second top-score on 71, including 38 no-balls and 21 byes, surpassing the 68 run up by the West Indies against the same opponents at Bridgetown in 1977.

## Followed

Chief offenders were Courtney Walsh with 14 no-balls and four wides, followed by Curtley Ambrose (12 no-balls), Patrick Patterson (nine no-balls) and Winston Benjamin (three no-balls).

West Indies lost Desmond Haynes in scoring 25 in just over an hour's batting by the close, to trail by 118 with nine wickets left.

Pakistan, resuming on the third day at 249 for four, made slow progress in the morning session, scoring 62 from only 20 overs for the loss of Miandad and his overnight partner Ejaz Ahmed for 31.

Miandad, 96 overnight, needed another 53 minutes to reach his 16th Test hundred and his first against the West Indies. He was kept on 99 for 38 minutes and punched the air triumphantly when he scrambled the required single after 356 minutes at the crease.

Miandad eventually bowled off the inside edge by a quick delivery from Patterson. His painstaking knock took 405 minutes and included 12 fours.

Ejaz, with whom Miandad added 80 in 143 minutes for the fifth wicket, was next over with the score on 300 when he fended a rising delivery from Ambrose.

Imran Kahn (24) and Salim Yousuf, who made an assured

62, stepped up the tempo in the second session during which 100 runs were scored in 25 overs.

Then Abdul Qadir, last man out for 19, helped put Pakistan in a healthy position.

When West Indies batted again Imran left the field with an infected toe after bowling just two overs and will welcome today's rest day.

The West Indies have not lost a Test match at home since 1974 but a defeat looks on the cards.

Wicketkeeper Jeff Dujon had a nightmare behind the stumps, but was not helped by some frequently ill-directed bowling.

The truth is that the West Indian attack is inexperienced by international standards, with the four fast bowlers having played only 28 Tests between them before this one. Malcolm Marshall was desperately missed.

## Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings 292 (G. Leggie 80, R. Richardson 75, Imran Khan seven for 80).

PAKISTAN first innings (over- night 249 for four)

Miandad c Haynes b Ambrose 114  
Rameez c Haynes b Patterson 5  
Shoaib c Greenidge b Walsh 46  
Javed Miandad b Patterson 114

Salim c Greenidge b Patterson 27  
Ejaz Ahmed c Haynes b Ambrose 31  
Imran c Simmons b Benjamin 24

Salim Yousuf lbw b Walsh 62  
Ijaz Faqih b Hooper 5  
Abdul Qadir b Walsh 19

Wahid Akram not out 2  
Extras (b-21 lb-8 w-4 nb-38) 71  
Total 435

Fall of wickets: 1-20 2-57 3-127 4-217 5-297 6-300 7-364 8-383 9-423

Bowling: Patterson 24-2-82-3 (nb-12), Ambrose 28-5-108-2 (nb-12), Walsh 27-4-80-3 (nb-14, w-4), Benjamin 31-3-99-1 (nb-3), Hooper 12-0-37-1.

WEST INDIES second innings

D. Haynes b Faqih 5  
P. Simmons not out 11  
R. Richardson not out 6

Extras (b-3) 3  
Total (for one wicket) 25

Fall of wicket: 1-19

Bowling: Ambrose 6-1-7-0, Imran 2-0-0-0, Faqih 5-2-6-1, Qadir 1-0-4-0.

## Moynihan requests for change in plans

## UEFA delay decision on English clubs

LONDON, April 5, (AP). A seven-week postponement of the decision to re-admit English soccer clubs to European competition was taken at the request of Britain's sports minister, the continent's ruling body of soccer said today.

"It was on the basis of a request by the sports minister in Britain that a decision be taken at the end of June," Rudolph Rothembuhler, a spokesman for UEFA, said.

Sports Minister Colin Moynihan was out of the country and unavailable for comment. He has repeatedly urged caution in re-admitting English clubs to European competition, from where they have been banned for three years following a riot by fans that left 39 people dead.

Three months ago, UEFA announced at a meeting in Monaco that a ruling on the English clubs would be taken at a session of its full congress in St. Andrew's, Scotland, on May 3.

## Condition

It indicated at the time that the ban would be lifted at St. Andrew's in time for next season, on condition English fans behave at this summer's European championship finals in West Germany.

But last week, newspapers quoted UEFA president Jacques Georges as saying the decision had been put off until June 25, the day of the title match at the championships, where England is one of the eight teams.

In a brief statement yesterday,

UEFA confirmed that its executive committee would decide England's fate at the end of the championships "and not on May 3 ... as previously announced."

"It's not a question of changing our minds," Rothenbuhler told the Associated Press. "It's much more complicated than that. There have been a number of talks."

## Account

The spokesman said he did not know exactly when Moynihan had made the request but indicated it had come since the Monaco meeting.

A spokesman at the sports ministry said he was not aware of any new talks between the minister and UEFA but stressed the government had always been

keen to keep the ban enforced through the summer to monitor the behaviour of English fans.

"The minister has gone on record that any decision by UEFA should take into account the behaviour of the fans until the end of the season, both at home and at the European Championships," said the spokesman, who asked not to be identified.

English clubs have been barred from the Champions Cup, Cup Winners Cup and UEFA Cup since a riot by Liverpool fans at the Heysel stadium in Brussels in May 1985, left 39 people dead. Most of the victims were supporters of Juventus of Turin, Italy's biggest club, which was playing Liverpool in the Champions Cup final.

## Ferguson and Dalglish clash after match

LIVERPOOL, England, April 5, (Reuters). Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson and his opposite number at Liverpool, Kenny Dalglish, were involved in a loud and bitter row after their teams drew 3-3 yesterday in the English First Division.

Ferguson, whose team stayed 11 points behind the League leaders, complained about referee John Key's decision to send off Manchester defender Colin Gibson 59 minutes into the match at Liverpool's Anfield ground.

"It would be a miracle to win here," he told reporters afterwards.

"I can now understand why clubs come away from here having to bite their tongues and choking on their own vomit, knowing they have been done by referees."

## Passing

"It is the whole intimidating atmosphere and the monopoly they have enjoyed here for years," he said.

Player-manager Dalglish, passing with his six-week-old daughter Lauren in his arms, overheard Ferguson and shouted: "You might as well talk to my daughter — you get more sense out of her."

The remarks started a fierce argument between the two men before Dalglish retreated into the player's lounge.

Meanwhile Forest confirmed today that Italian First Division soccer side Pisa have made a £1.5 million (\$2.8 million) offer for striker Nigel Clough.

Clough, 22, has scored 20 goals this season and Forest manager Brian Clough made it clear he will do all he can to keep his son at the club.

## Davison retires from cricket

HOBART, Tasmania, April 5, (Reuters). Brian Davison, one of cricket's nomads, announced his retirement from the game on today after 20 years with Rhodesia, Leicestershire, Gloucestershire and Tasmania.

Davison, 41, was persuaded to come out of retirement last season to take over the captaincy of Tasmania from Test opener David Boon. But this time he said his decision to give up the game after 21 seasons was final.

"After more than 20 years in first class cricket I think the time has come for me to call it quits as a player," Davison told journalists. He added he would be interested in taking on the state coaching job.

Davison made over 20,000 first-class runs including 53 centuries in his career.

## Rain hits women's tennis tournament

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C., April 5, (Reuters). Steady rain yesterday caused postponement of all scheduled matches of the \$300,000 women's tennis tournament here.

Only two unseeded players — Federica Bonisignori of Italy and Gisele Miro of Brazil — got to play before action was suspended for the day at about 4 pm.

Their match was halted in the second set with Miro on top, 6-3, 2-2.

The matches were to begin at 10 a.m. (1400 GMT), but were delayed until about noon because of the rain. Bonisignori was serving to Miro — up 2-1 in the first set — when rain again suspended play.

No. 14 seed Helen Klesi of Canada was just warming up for her first-round match against Michelle Torres of Chicago when the second rain delay occurred.

Topseed Martina Navratilova and the other top seven seeds drew byes for the first round of the 16th annual tournament, with a \$60,000 winner's purse, on the green hard-tru hard clay courts at the Sea Pines Plantation Racquet Club.

Two-time defending champion Steffi Graf and eight-time winner Chris Evert will not take part in the tournament.

Tournament officials said Graf will be conducting sponsor-related clinics. Evert was said to have a prior commitment.

## Virgil to put title at stake

NEW YORK, April 5, (AP). Virgil Hill, who successfully defended his World Boxing Association light heavyweight title on Sunday, will put his title on the line against Ramzi Hassan on June 6 at the Las Vegas Hilton. Top Rank Inc. announced today.

The bout will be on the undercard of the Thomas Hearns-Iran Barkley world middleweight championship fight.

Hill, of Grand Forks, North Dakota, has won all of his 21 bouts, including 14 knockouts.

## Woman golfer earns \$2m in prize-money

## Alcott working on third million

RANCHO MIRAGE, California, April 5, (AP). When she's not working as a short-order cook, grooming her Scottish terrier for shows or being involved in her numerous charitable endeavours, she finds a little time for golf.

Amy Alcott is, in fact, good enough at the game that she's working on her third million.

## Lifted

Alcott, 32, went over the \$2 million mark in earnings on Sunday, when she won the Dinah Shore tournament for the second time.

The \$80,000 winner's cheque lifted her career earnings to \$2,050,831, making her only the third player in LPGA history to surpass \$2 million.

She's made \$118,652 this year, tops on the Tour.

But although Alcott is dedicated to golf, she finds time for many other activities.

She spends some time working as a cook at the Butterfly Bakery in Los Angeles. She enters her pup, Shortscots Flying Venus McVie, in dog shows.

She also serves on the President's Council against Drug Abuse, is a playing editor for Golf Digest, and holds an annual tournament to benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

In addition, she's working on a book for junior golfers.

And when she won the Dinah Shore with a tournament-record 14-under-par 274 total, Alcott wasn't only playing for herself.

She dedicated the victory to Ann Paulson, a friend who is suffering from cancer.

Alcott and Paulson, 25, have been friends since Alcott was a

teen-age golf champion. She met Paulson, who was 10 at the time, and Paulson's father at an amateur tournament.

Alcott had said Saturday that, if she won, she would dedicate the victory to Paulson, who lives in Chicago.

That made the triumph even more gratifying for Alcott, who had other reasons to celebrate.

In addition to going over the \$2 million mark, Alcott ended the longest winless streak of her LPGA career. After winning at least once a year since joining the Tour in 1975, Alcott was winless in 1987.

Immediately after winning the Dinah Shore, Alcott accompanied by caddy Bill Kurre — celebrated by plunging into the lake that surrounds the 18th green at Mission Hills Country Club.

## BKME end season with easy win over NBK



Bastaki (right) receives the trophy from Tony Jashanmal.

BKME (Bank of Kuwait and Middle East) ended a very successful season in Ahmadi with an easy 6-wicket win over National Bank of Kuwait in the Jashanmal Friday League game at the KOC New Grounds.

NBK won the toss and elected to bat, opening their innings through Ejaz and Zaidi. Ejaz was out on the second ball caught in

the slips by Ronnie off Salim. Zaidi was bowled by Bastaki for seven to leave NBK struggling at 20 for 2.

Andrew Pinho and Sai then took the score to 106 before Sai was bowled by Tariq for 23. Pinho mistimed a short off Tariq to have his stumps shattered 64 which included seven fours and a six.

The latter batsmen could not



The victorious BKME squad after the match.

get on top of the bowling and the NBK innings folded for 148.

Tariq was the most successful bowler for BKME with four wickets for 25 runs in 6 overs. Peter claimed two wickets for five runs off two overs. Salim, Bastaki and Ramesh were the other wicket takers with one apiece.

BKME started their reply well

with Ashfaq R. Khan and Steven Machado taking the score to 27 before Machado was bowled by Andrew for 18. Ronnie and Ashfaq then took the score to 106, with the latter the dominant partner.

Ashfaq was finally out, caught by Naim for 66 off Ejaz. His innings included nine boundaries and a six.

Ronnie was bowled by Hari

for 37 and Bastaki missed a Sai delivery to be bowled for three. Ramesh and Peter however avoided any further damage and BKME were home by six wickets.

After the match, Allen Wade introduced Tony Jashanmal, the sponsor of the Jashanmal Trophy to the winning team.

Tony Jashanmal then gave away the prizes.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

## Al Mulla cricket

THE finals of the "Al Mulla Mit-subishi League Championship" organised by Unity Cricketers will be held on Friday at the New Ground in Ahmadi. Kifco meet Falcon in a full day encounter of 45 overs commencing at 9.30 a.m. Umpires nominated are (2) from Unity.

## Star Trophy

QUAID-E-MILLAT meet Royal Club in the finals of the Morning Star Trophy cricket tournament at the Airport-Hijra ground on Friday. The match will start at 9.00 a.m.

## Khaleejia tourney

SANA Cricket Club face Blue Star Cricket Club in the finals of the Khaleejia Cup cricket tournament at the Safeway ground on Friday. The game starts at 9.00 a.m.

## Friendly match

MORNING STAR Cricket Club beat Young Stars by 62 runs in a friendly match. Morning Star scored 200 for five. Ajaz Butt hit 70, Sohail 55 and Anjum 30. Young Stars were all out for 131.

## Soccer fans

BRUSSELS, Belgium, April 5, (AP). The public prosecutor's office has made a "gentlemen's agreement" with defence lawyers for 26 British soccer fans to excuse them from appearing at the opening of their manslaughter trial in Brussels on April 18, officials said today.

## Italian GP

CASTIGLIONE DEL LAGO, Italy, April 5, (Reuters). Frenchman Jean Michael Bayle opened the 125cc Motocross Championship season in confident style yesterday, winning both races of the Italian Grand Prix on a Honda.

## Motorcycle race

DONNINGTON, England, April 5, (AP). Ron Haslam led Britain to a narrow victory over the United States in the Euro-Atlantic Challenge motorcycle racing series yesterday. While Americans won all three of the races on the second and final day, the British "A" team piled up a total of 586 points to 570 for the Americans.

## PSV player

BERNE, April 5, (Reuters). The European Football Union (UEFA) today said it has asked PSV Eindhoven's Ronald Koeman to explain his public support of a team-mate's foul on Bordeaux, midfielder Jean Tigana in a Champions' Cup tie last month.

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